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Arab-Israeli Talks

Liaison, Gaza-Jericho Committees Arrive in Cairo

PLO's 'Abbas, Sha'th Detail Agenda

NC1210220193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Palestine's delegations to the Liaison Committee and Gaza-Jericho Committee, which will meet in Cairo and Taba tomorrow, arrived here this evening. The Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee is led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, while the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee is chaired by Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

In an arrival statement, 'Abbas said that the Liaison Committee will discuss the talks to be held by the other committees, whether in Taba or Washington. The Liaison Committee will also discuss the talks to be held by the economic committee, whose venue has not yet been named. He pointed out that the purpose of the Liaison Committee meeting, which is headed on the Israeli side by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, is to follow up on the work of the other committees and chart the course for negotiations in the next two months. He noted that the negotiations at tomorrow's meeting will be based on the main points outlined in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

For his part, Sha'th stated that the Gaza-Jericho Committee will discuss the measures that will lead to the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho. It will also discuss the entry of the Palestinian security force into the area, the assumption of authority, the economic relations between Gaza and Jericho and with Israel when the Palestinian authority is established, arrangements for the return of the refugees, the settlements in Gaza and Jericho, the question of a security passageway between the two cities, and the passageways between Gaza and Jericho and Jordan.

He noted that the discussion of these topics is scheduled to be completed in two months and that the Israeli withdrawal is scheduled to begin within four months, after which the transfer of authority to the Palestinians will take place.

Regarding Jerusalem, Sha'th pointed out that the agreement stipulated that this matter be negotiated. He stressed that East Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, that some arrangements must be made during the transitional period, and that the Palestinian side will stress this point during the final negotiations to emphasize the Palestinian presence in East Jerusalem.

Peres Arrives for Talks

NC1310080293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Cairo this morning on a short visit to Egypt. Peres will head his country's delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which begins its meetings in Cairo later today.

Peres was welcomed upon arrival by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Peres: 'We Came Here With Hopes'

NC1310082493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0749 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the presidential office. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Before meeting President Mubarak, Peres made statements to correspondents in which he thanked Egypt for hosting the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Peres said the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed on Egypt as the venue for their negotiations on issues relating to the agreement between them.

Peres said: We came here with hopes. We did not come to set out obstacles, but to overcome obstacles and work seriously.

He said he will convey his best wishes to President Mubarak on being elected for a third term.

Asked whether the meeting with the president will deal with the Palestinian-Israeli talks, Peres said: I would like to listen to President Mubarak's views before we begin the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Peres Meets Mubarak, Notes Priorities

NC1310110693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has described his meeting with President Mubarak this morning as "very constructive."

In a statement afterward, he said he conveyed to President Mubarak the Israeli Government and people's good wishes on his reelection for a third presidential term.

He added that during his first and second presidential terms, President Mubarak proved his presence as a regional leader, launched great construction work in his country, and contributed to supporting peace in the Middle East. The Israeli foreign minister noted that President Mubarak achieved stability and reconstruction in Egypt and played an effective role in advancing and leading the Middle East peace process.

He said the most important point he discussed with President Mubarak was advancing the peace process. He added: We told the president our priority is to implement the agreement with the PLO in full, maintain the timetable, and maintain the prevailing spirit between us and the Palestinians, improving it if possible.

He went on: I reiterated my remarks to the Israeli Knesset yesterday: We aim to make a real success of the agreement signed with the PLO.

He said: We also discussed with the president how to achieve progress in the peace process. According to our program, we are pursuing our negotiations with Jordan to complete the triangle of peace comprising the Jordanians, Palestinians, and the Israelis [words indistinct] economically. He added: I do not believe we can establish genuine, good relations or have a genuine opportunity for development unless we, the three parties, work together and cooperate with Egypt.

The Israeli foreign minister said President Mubarak was interested in learning about the Israeli stance on the Syrian issue. He added: We informed him we want peace with the Syrians and the Lebanese and believe there must be a permanent and comprehensive peace.

He went on: We cannot realize this unless the Syrians understand that negotiations can continue only when no side imposes conditions or assumes the upper hand. The ground should be equal. He said the agenda also includes many important issues, such as the nature of peace, security arrangements, the nature of withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and the psychological circumstances.

He noted that if someone wants to follow the steps taken by Egypt, the first country in the Middle East to establish peace with Israel, they should not forget that the agreement with Egypt took place in stages, starting with the disengagement of forces, followed by a stage-by-stage agreement, and ending with a full agreement.

The Israeli foreign minister said President al-Sadat opened the prospects for peace in the region by visiting Jerusalem and encouraging full talks on every level on all the issues.

He said: I believe the Israeli public finds it difficult to understand the Syrian refusal to hold negotiations or establish rapprochement. This is something that is acceptable [as received] during the second half of the 20th century. I found President Mubarak very understanding of these issues.

Peres denied that his talks with the president also addressed economic issues. Today, we have learned to pay great attention to establishing economic and social independence, he said, without which we will fail, as some already have.

He said economic independence is not enough. All the countries in the region are trying to raise their standard of living and provide their people with a better lifestyle so that our sons will have the best means of education. He said the north African and Asian countries must progress to reach Europe's level. I am confident this will happen some day, he declared.

Answering a question on whether he means Syria should take the same steps Egypt took to make peace with Israel through the various stages, Peres said: I have proposed that Syria should hold talks with good intentions and an open mind. It should understand that any agreement is based on joint grounds and compromises.

Musa Notes Mubarak-Peres Talks

NC1310114093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1033 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will visit Cairo on Saturday [16 October] for talks on developments in the peace process.

After President Mubarak's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Musa said the talks with Peres centered on three points: First, today's talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track; second, the Syrian-Israeli track; and third, the multilateral talks and the peace process as a whole.

He said the Syrian track, like all other tracks, is based on the principle of land-for-peace that governs the outcome on any track. So, he added, we support the Syrian stance calling for a comprehensive withdrawal in the context of exchanging land for peace—in other words, everything for everything, as the Syrians declared. He said negotiations on the Lebanese track also concerned the president and formed the subject of his contacts.

Musa said several contacts on the peace process in the Middle East will be held in the next few days. He added that President Mubarak and Peres discussed Mubarak's forthcoming visit to the United States.

Commenting on the multilateral talks, Musa said the Refugees Committee convenes in Tunis today and the Environment Committee in Cairo next month. He noted that discussions are under way to agree on the meetings of other committees in various capitals, such as the Disarmament and Economic Cooperation Committees, which are due to meet in Paris.

As for the Palestinian-Israeli committees meeting in Egypt, he said: We are not members of these and our role is confined to providing a venue for the two sides to meet.

Peres, 'Abbas Shake Hands Ahead of Talks

NC1310123693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1123 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said: I came here to ensure that the peace agreement reached between the Palestinians and Israel succeeds so that we can achieve full success.

In statements before the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, Peres said the complete success of the agreement is in the interest of both peoples. Peres said this as he held hands with Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the PLO delegation to the meetings.

'Abbas said the Palestinian-Israeli agreement represents a basic and important step. We have the goodwill to seek the agreement's implementation, he said.

Peres then shook hands with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, before correspondents for a second time.

'Abbas, Peres Hold Closed Meeting

NC1310131593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, a member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Liaison Committee, held a 20-minute closed meeting this morning with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in a room at the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo before the Liaison Committee met.

Abu-Mazin and Peres left the room together and headed to the conference hall, where they made brief statements to correspondents.

Israel Asked To Release 2,600 Detainees

NC1310163593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that the closed meeting between PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres dealt in particular with the immediate release of a number of Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons.

Diplomatic sources close to the Palestinian delegation's leadership said that during the meeting the sides discussed the immediate release of 2,600 Palestinian detainees who represent all the Palestinian groups, including the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas."

The meeting also dealt with the joint coordination between the two delegations' leaders on the work of the Liaison Committee, which is regarded as a higher committee than the others agreed on at the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo on 6 October.

Israel is detaining 18,000 Palestinians in its prisons, according to the estimates of some Palestinian sources.

Musa, 'Abbas Comment on Talks

NC1310193893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the talks he held today with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Executive Committee Mahmud 'Abbas were a follow-up to the talks held by the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. The discussions also included some aspects of the coming meetings that will be held in Cairo or in the other capitals where the multilateral talks are held.

He said that the two delegations expressed satisfaction with the results of their talks that were conducted in a calm and productive manner.

Shim'on Peres said that the discussions dealt with the future of the negotiations and with plans for the coming stage. He added that everyone stressed the importance of achieving a comprehensive settlement that includes Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. He praised President Husni Mubarak's political role.

Mahmud 'Abbas said today's meeting followed up on the issues being handled by the other committees and that the beginning was a good one.

'Abbas, Peres Hold News Conference

NC1310155993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, has stressed that all the issues raised during today's meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee were discussed very seriously and that there is a common desire to find solutions. He noted that some of these issues have been referred to "specialized committees," such as the issue of Palestinian deportees and prisoners.

These statements were made at a joint news conference held by Mahmud 'Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres following their meeting in Cairo today.

On his part, Peres stressed that the two sides will exert strenuous efforts to resolve the issues in the next two months. He said: We are convinced that we can do the right work for the sake of our peoples. We agreed that the most important goal is to build confidence between the two sides and create the appropriate atmosphere.

Peres stressed that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will exert their utmost efforts to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement during the next two months in accordance with the agreement.

He said: We are here in the interest of our two peoples and we want to see this historic and practical agreement implemented. We will spare no efforts to show the whole world that we are creating a new reality in the region because the Gaza-Jericho agreement is not only an economic agreement. He added: The Gaza-Jericho agreement is a historic one for all Palestinians, Arabs, Jews, and the whole region. He said: I am convinced that we can do this task for the sake of our peoples.

Peres said that he and Mahmud 'Abbas discussed ways of achieving progress and enhancing confidence between the two sides through the work of various committees. There is no room or time to dwell on differences as we seek to create a new reality involving our nations, Peres stated.

Abu-Mazin said that the negotiations we started today will last for two months, according to the agreement. He added that we are dealing with important and intricate issues and will work around the clock to resolve all the pending issues under the agreement we signed and the timetable we have established.

Abu-Mazin said that there are issues that will be referred to specialized committees to handle, including those concerning the deportees and prisoners. Abu-Mazin pointed out that there is a common desire by both sides to resolve these issues.

Peres said that the Gaza-Jericho Committee currently meeting in Tabah will discuss the deportees issue. The issue was brought up in today's meeting, but we did not discuss it in depth. We referred it to the Tabah Committee, Peres remarked.

Abu-Mazin said that he and Peres discussed the question of lifting the siege on east Jerusalem. The issue has been referred to the Committee meeting in Tabah, he pointed out.

Peres said that they did not discuss the issue of financial assistance, which was brought up at a meeting in Washington in early October. He added that the region has great geographic and human potential that can be geared toward generating a higher standard of living in the region. The meeting also involved a discussion of investments in the private and public sectors, Peres noted.

Abu-Mazin said that he and Peres agreed that the Economic Cooperation Committee will meet soon but did not set a date for that meeting. He added that the committee in charge of implementing the interim self-rule will meet shortly in Washington.

Abu-Mazin concluded the news conference by saying that today's meeting was a landmark along the way to achieving progress and enhancing understanding in the relations between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

Liaison Committee Issues Joint Statement

NC1310162293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee has ended its meetings that began in Cairo this morning. The meetings were chaired by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The Committee discussed issues related to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement.

The Committee issued a joint statement at the end of its meeting saying that its work was held in a constructive atmosphere and with a desire to achieve and implement the articles of the Palestinian- Israeli agreement in letter and spirit for the sake of the two peoples' interest. The two sides agreed on the following points:

1. The Liaison Committee will deal with the political issues and related ones in subcommittees. The General Committee will meet once every two or three weeks in Cairo.

The statement added that the Palestinian delegation raised the issue of prisoners and deportees and the Israeli delegation replied that it will deal with this issue in the Gaza-Jericho Committee.

The statement said that at the end of the meetings the two delegations also reviewed economic cooperation in the future, pledging that the agreement will be accompanied with economic cooperation at all levels to fulfill the desires and aspirations of the region's peoples.

The statement expressed the two delegations' gratitude for Egypt and for its support for these meetings.

The two delegations's leaders then answered questions. Shim'on Peres said that the discussions were important and were held in a constructive atmosphere. Mahmud 'Abbas said that all the issues raised must be finished and a solution to them reached through the specialized committees, such as the deportees and prisoners issue, in addition to the subcommittees that will be formed.

2. The Gaza-Jericho Committee should be in a state of open session to reach a detailed agreement during the two months stipulated in the agreement.

3. A committee for cooperation at the ministerial level will be formed to deal with the economic and political issues at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

4. An Egyptian-Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian committee will be formed to discuss issues related to cooperation between the parties in implementing the agreement.

5. The work of the committee on elections and the transitional period will be resumed in Washington with the Madrid peace conference cosponsors.

Cairo Meeting Concludes 13 Oct

NC1310132093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee ended today.

Shim'on Peres, Israel's foreign minister and head of his country's delegation, stressed that his team came to ensure the success of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement. He said the Liaison Committee meetings mark a success for this agreement, which is in the interest of the two peoples.

Mahmud 'Abbas, head of the Palestinian delegation, said the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is a basic and important step and we are seeking to implement it with every good intention.

Musa Sees Off Israel's Peres

NC1310172993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1703 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his accompanying delegation left Cairo tonight following a visit to Egypt that lasted several hours, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Peres chaired his country's delegation to the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee, which were held in Cairo today.

He was seen off at Cairo Airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Peres Comments on Issues

TA1310165393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Segal] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is leaving Egypt and returning to Israel at this hour. The liaison committee made several significant decisions today: The committee on the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement, meeting in Taba, will hold continuous meetings to meet the deadline—in two months, when the withdrawal is to take place. The liaison committee decided that it will deal with policymaking, and meet every two or three weeks in Cairo, unless there are pressing matters or problems that crop up in other committees.

[Peres] This committee will discuss policies and issues referred to it by the other committees. We will meet every two or three weeks and, should the need arise, we will appoint subcommittees to discuss specific problems.

[Segal] The parties decided that the economic committee will be on a ministerial level and will deal with cooperation and economic projects on the bilateral and multilateral levels. Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] said that it has not yet been decided whether Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] will head the Palestinian team at the committee, although—being the PLO treasury—he probably will. The liaison committee decided to establish a joint committee on regional issues which will be made of representatives of Israel, the PLO, Jordan, and Egypt. [passage omitted]

The PLO representatives also raised the issues of the deportees and the release of the Palestinian prisoners. At the news conference, Abu-Mazin said that the Taba committee was tasked with the latter issue. Israel announced that it will treat the issue of releasing Palestinian prisoners positively, in the spirit of today's meeting—a good and positive spirit that could be detected from the smiles and exchange of jokes between the men on the stand, mainly Peres and Abu-Mazin.

Peres said that, in a private meeting the two held before the committee meeting began, the two agreed on the nature of the meeting within minutes, and it is believed that the private meeting led to fruitful and quick discussions. Hence, an hour after the meeting began at noon today, Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian team for the Gaza and Jericho committee, left for Taba.

Before the meeting, Ministers Shim'on Peres and Yosi Sarid met with President Husni Mubarak, who invited them for breakfast. Mubarak raised the Syrian issue, and Peres told the reporters that Israel aspires for an agreement with Syria, but Syria must realize that the negotiations are held with no preconditions and with no advantage to any of the parties. Peres said that Israel must conclude the negotiations with Jordan since the agenda, at least on the economic issues, has been agreed on.

[At 1600 GMT on 13 October, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew carries a live report by Udi Segal from Cairo adding: "Israel agreed that the second meeting of the Gaza and Jericho committee will be held in Taba next Wednesday [20 October]. This followed a request by the PLO representatives, which asked for the postponement at the liaison committee in Cairo today. This was revealed by a senior political source. Israel also accepted a PLO request to send an economic survey team to the Gaza Strip soon. The senior political source also addressed himself to the fact that the Taba delegation includes an officer of the Palestine Liberation Army who had been involved in terror attacks. The source said that the message on the issue Israel relayed to the PLO in Cairo was received with understanding.

["The source also said that the Egyptians accepted Israel's stand regarding the stuck negotiations with Syria."]

Sha'th Lauds Talks, Leaves for Taba

NC1310183293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has described as positive the meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee that began in Cairo today.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. Sha'th said that the agenda of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, which will meet in Taba later today, has been defined. He noted that the agenda includes the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the locations in which the Israeli troops will deploy in the remainder of the West Bank, the issue of the evacuees, the Palestinian police and their job, the crossing points between Rafah and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan, the crossing points with Israel, and the crossings between Gaza-Jericho and the rest of the West Bank.

Following the meeting, Dr. Sha'th headed for Taba to chair the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meeting.

Taba Talks: Palestinian Delegates on Water, Land

NC1310201393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1439 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 13 Oct (MENA)—Members of the Palestinian delegation participating in the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, which will begin later today in Taba, have stressed the importance of the technical meetings that will be held in the coming period between the Palestinians and Israelis to implement the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington last month.

Dr. Yusuf Abu-Safiyah, an expert on environmental and water problems at Gaza al-Azhar University and a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, said that the issue of water is a particularly intricate one. He pointed out that the Gaza-Jericho agreement gives the Palestinians the authority to manage water in Gaza and Jericho. Abu-Safiyah stressed the need to resolve this problem so that the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho may go on with their daily lives.

Abu-Safiyah pointed to the problems facing Palestinians travelling through crossing points between Egypt and Israel, noting that they are kept waiting for a long time at these crossings. He said that after the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement such problems will disappear.

Answering a question on the support of Palestinians in the occupied territories of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Abu-Safiyah said that the great majority of the Palestinians welcome the agreement and appreciate what it does for them following a long period of suffering. He added that it is natural to find some Palestinians who oppose the agreement.

Dr. Mahmud 'Ukashah, professor of economy at Gaza al-Azhar University and another member of the Palestinian delegation, said that one of the most important issues to be discussed by the Gaza- Jericho Committee is the area of Jericho. The Palestinians, he added, see the area as 295 square kms of land that extends to the Dead Sea while the Israelis see it as only 25 square kms. He pointed out that the Declaration of Principles does not specify the area of this region in which the Palestinians will live following the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Asked if Israeli forces have begun to prepare for withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, Dr. 'Ukashah said that he has not noted any movement of Israeli troops since the signing of the agreement.

Dr. Darwish al-Wahidi, another member of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, said that we are looking forward to the day Palestinian sovereignty will return to Gaza and Jericho, following the Israeli withdrawal. He added that the Palestinians living in the occupied territories have greeted the agreement with enthusiasm.

Heads of Israeli, Palestinian Sides Meet in Taba

Sha'th, Shahak Hold Closed Meeting

NC1310183593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 13 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation on the Gaza-Jericho Committee, held a closed meeting with General Amnon Shahak, deputy chief of staff and chairman of the Israeli delegation on the Committee. MENA has learned that both heads of the delegations will discuss the Committee's action plan in the future stage and the topics on the agenda, primarily working out the timetable for withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho. The two heads will also define the dates of the Committee meetings from now until its mission is over. Both the Israeli and Palestinian sides are expected to hold an expanded meeting of the Committee with members of both delegations at the end of the closed meeting between Sha'th and Shahak.

Delegate Heads Emerge 'Smiling'

NC1310183993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 13 Oct (MENA)—The closed meeting held this afternoon between Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, and General Amnon Shahak, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Committee, has ended. The meeting lasted 80 minutes. Afterwards the heads of both delegations emerged smiling before journalists and news agency correspondents and had their photographs taken shaking hands. The Gaza-Jericho Committee is scheduled to hold an expanded meeting of members of the two delegations later.

Rest of Palestinian Delegates Arrive

NC1310200393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 13 Oct (MENA)—The rest of the Palestinian delegation members participating in the Gaza-Jericho Committee meeting arrived in Taba this evening from Tunis. The delegation includes Major Fakhri Shaqqurah, military adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat; Brigadier General Nasri Yusuf, PLO Executive Committee member; Dr. Ahmad al-Khalidi, economic expert; Nizar 'Ammar, director of the office of Mahmud 'Abbas, alias, Abu- Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member; Hasan 'Asfur, adviser in president 'Arafat's office; and Amin al-Hindi, military adviser to President 'Arafat.

Israelis Demand Exclusion of 2 Palestinians

NC1310200193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1854 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 13 Oct (MENA)—The Israeli delegation at the Gaza-Jericho Committee meeting demanded that two members of the Palestinian delegation be excluded and not participate in the meeting, claiming that Amin al-Hindi, the military adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, was part of the Palestinian group that attacked the Israeli team at the Olympic games in Munich in 1972. The Israeli delegation also demanded that Khalil Tufakji be excluded from the talks because he is a Palestinian resident of Jerusalem. The Palestinian delegation replied by demanding that the head of the Israeli side, General Amnon Shahak, be excluded because he was the commander of the group that carried out the Verdun operation in Beirut in 1974, which killed three Fatah representatives, most prominent of whom was Kamal Nasir. This problem cast a shadow on the meeting and was discussed at the expanded meeting. No decision has yet been made on this issue.

Joint Statement Detailed

NC1310224293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2143 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tabah, 13 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Committee will resume its meeting at the Taba Hotel tomorrow morning to complete discussions of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho and reinstate Palestinian authority there. In a joint statement following their meeting this evening, both sides stressed their readiness to continue efforts to implement the executive steps of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in two months in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September. The two sides thanked Egypt for sponsoring and supporting the agreement and hosting the Committee meeting in Taba.

Both sides praised the friendly and constructive atmosphere that prevailed in the meeting and stressed that they will continue to work in the same spirit. They declared their agreement to continue contacts and give priority to the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. They decided to form two working groups to discuss arrangements for transferring power in Gaza and Jericho to the Palestinians.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Committee, emphasized his and the Palestinian people's welcome of Egypt's support for the peace process and its role in sponsoring the Committee meeting. He said that he is happy that Egypt hosted the Committee meeting in Taba. At a joint news conference with the head of the Israeli delegation at the end of the meeting, Dr. Sha'th said that this meeting emphasized both parties' resolve to follow up on and implement the agreement. He noted that during the meeting the two sides agreed on the release of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and the repatriation of the deportees.

Dr. Sha'th noted that the Gaza-Jericho agreement constitutes a starting point for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho and the entry of Palestinian security forces there. He said that the agreement will give the Palestinian people a starting point toward a ("solution) that will achieve peace and security for both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. He stressed that genuine peace will be achieved only when the final stage of the peace process comes with an Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese-Jordanian agreement establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He added: During the meeting, I sensed that the Israeli side demonstrated real preparedness for cooperation and completion of the task within two months as outlined in the agreement.

Responding to a question on Israel's request to exclude two members from the Palestinian delegation, Sha'th said that formation of the delegation is not a problem because we have bigger and more important problems to address in the agreement.

Gen. Amnon Shahak said: We have the names of the Palestinian delegation and there is no problem on this issue.

On the Israeli delegation's concept of the area specified for the Jericho area from which Israel will withdraw, and whether the Jericho area is 395 km, as the Palestinians are demanding, or 25 km including only the city of Jericho, as the Israelis believe, Gen. Shahak said that this issue was not discussed today and will be considered during future meetings. At the end of the news conference that was attended by members of both delegations, the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations shook hands and proceeded to a reception party held at the Taba Hotel in their honor to mark the beginning of the commitee meetings.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Forum Views Israeli Accord, UN Sanctions

LD0910185693 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The proceedings of the emergency pan-Arab meeting began in Tripoli this morning, which is being convened at the invitation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab General People's Congress in order to examine the serious impact of the recognition of the Zionist enemy on the Palestinian cause and on the Arab nation in the light of the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Arab organizations and groupings are attending the meeting, as well as members of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab General People's Congress. The participants are to examine Arab foreign relations and their pan-Arab repercussions, support for the great Jamahiriyah and the stone-throwing heroes in occupied Palestine, and the serious repercussions of the recognition of the Zionist enemy on the Palestinian cause and the Arab nation.

The brother general secretary of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab General People's Congress, together with a number of members of the Permanent Secretariat, addressed the emergency meeting this morning and affirmed the Arab people's support for and solidarity with the great Jamahiriyah in her confrontation with the unjust mandatory measures imposed upon her as a result of the unjust Resolution 748.

They also stressed the need to bolster the stone-throwing heroes to continue their struggle against the Zionist occupation. A proposal to set up committees to bolster the intifadah and to support the great Jamahiriyah were made at this morning's session.

Arab League Urges 'Restraint, Wisdom' in Somalia

NC1410064393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1353 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat today issued a statement renewing its support for Somalia's national unity and territorial integrity. The Secretariat called for restraint and wisdom in tackling the crisis and urged cooperation among all the parties and the resumption of dialogue as the best way to resolve the Somali conflict.

The statement says the Secretariat believes that implementing the national reconciliation agreement, with all the Somali parties participating, will set the country on the right track and help it to overcome its suffering.

The Arab League urged concerted efforts by every Somali and international party, including the United Nations and regional organizations, to achieve peace and security in Somalia and initiate reconstruction there.

The statement notes that the Arab League is following developments in Somalia with great concern. It notes that the forces of six Arab League member countries are participating in the UN force in Somalia. They are Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates. These forces, the statement adds, are part of the effort to provide relief and consolidate stability in Somalia.

The statement notes that the Arab League has repeatedly expressed concern and alarm over the deteriorating security and the renewed violence in Somalia, developments that endanger its unity and stability. The statement says the resolutions passed at the national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa last March brought hope to the country and boosted the international community's resolve to help the Somalis to rebuild their country.

Maghreb Committee Concludes 26th Session in Tunis

LD0910194493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The proceedings of the 26th session of the Arab Maghreb Union follow-up committee, which began yesterday with the participation of delegations from the five member states and the Union's secretary general, was concluded today in Tunis.

Sa'id Ben Mustafa, state secretary to the minister of foreign affairs in charge of Maghreban affairs, announced at the conclusion of this session that the participants have agreed on adequate resolutions to enable the Maghreban institutions to continue their work and to complete the drawing up of their bylaws. He noted the necessity for preparations to establish the Maghreban bank for investment and foreign trade, announcing that the bank would hold its constituent meeting before the end of the current year in order to play its role in promoting trade exchanges between the states of the Arab Maghreb and in providing the necessary finances for joint investment projects.

On the other hand, Mustafa has announced that a priority list of seven studies was made, which the members states had prepared in their initial files. They are currently ready to be submitted to the (?financing) houses that had expressed their readiness to handle these projects that are significant to the future of the region and its peoples, as they deal with vital sectors such as combating desertification and agricultural pests. He also noted that preparations have started for the draft framework agreement on the announcement of the free trade zone in the Arab Maghreb.

The follow-up committee had listened at the beginning of the session to a review by the chairman of the Maghreban judicial body, who announced that Mauritania has allocated a suitable place for the judicial body.

Before the conclusion of its proceedings, the follow-up committee endorsed the minutes of meetings of the 26th session, following which the leader of the Mauritanian delegation expressed the gratitude of the Maghreban delegations taking part in the session for the care shown by Tunisia to the meetings of the committee, hailing the efforts of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the president of the Union, in underpinning the joint Maghreban action and making a success of the Maghreban march.

Palestinian Affairs

Israel's Beilin Meets 'Arafat in Tunis

Foundation for Peace Discussed

LD1310180793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], brother president, the president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday evening received at his office Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin [name and title as received] and the accompanying delegation to the Refugee Committee, which started deliberations in Tunis the day before yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed means for the peace foundations during the coming stage, as well as the work of the Liaison and Gaza-Jericho First Committees, that will start work in Cairo and Taba in Egypt.

'Ashrawi on 'Arafat-Beilin Meeting

NC1310202793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1459 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 13 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has stated that the Palestinian president stressed in his meeting last night with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin that the peace with Israel should include all concerned Arab countries and that Israel must handle all the other tracks in a positive way.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Tunis, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that Yasir 'Arafat stressed to Beilin the need for Israel to show its desire for peace by achieving progress on the Syrian track.

She added that 'Arafat also demanded from Beilin that Israel immediately release the Palestinian detainees and prisoners and to allow the deportees to return.

She noted that Beilin was positive and promised that Israel will study the Palestinian views on the need for quick progress on the other tracks and on the release of the Palestinian detainees through the negotiating process.

Mrs. 'Ashrawi added that the talks between 'Arafat and Beilin, which were attended by members from the two sides, underlined the need to abide by a timetable on the Palestinian-Israeli track, as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles. She said that the two sides agreed on the need for Israel to show goodwill by its actions, especially toward the detainees.

She added that the discussions also dealt with the final solution and the Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. She said that 'Arafat told Beilin that there is a Palestine National Council resolution approving confederation with Jordan. But 'Arafat stressed at the same time that this is a Palestinian-Jordanian issue that will be discussed by the two sides and that there is Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at all levels.

Mrs. 'Ashrawi said that the discussion between 'Arafat and Beilin also touched on issues related to the Palestinian-Israeli committees.

PLO's Bal'awi, Beilin Confer

LD1310210493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative to the Tunisian Republic, yesterday evening met Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. The meeting, which was held at the PLO headquarters and lasted two hours, discussed the means likely to implement the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and the measures to be taken regarding deportation, detention, halting the Israeli practices, and putting an end to the state of siege in order to start implementing the agreement according to its timetable, so that it would realize a comprehensive peace, serve the objectives of our Palestinian people's struggle, restore its inalienable rights, and establish its independent Palestinian state. They also discussed the issue of refugees, which the multilateral committee currently meeting in Tunis, is studying, and the need to reach definite and practical results in accordance with international legitimacy in order to achieve a comprehensive peace.

Palestinian Military Committee Formed; Members Named

JN1410111793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Oct 93 p 32

[Exclusive dispatch by Samir al-Maqdisi]

[Excerpt] Tunis—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has issued a decision to form a Palestinian military committee to negotiate with Israeli military officials on the issue of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and then from cities, villages, and populated areas on the eve of holding elections for an interim council.

The committee will stem from the Gaza-Jericho committee. It includes Major General Nasr Yusuf, a member of the Fatah Central Committee and official in charge of the Palestinian police, as the head of this committee and Major General Abu-Khalid al-Da'aas, Major General Abu-al-'Abd al-Majayidah, and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hayy 'Abd-al-Wahid as members. The committee will meet with its Israeli counterpart for one or two sessions and then it will recess until it is joined by officers specialized in military topography, weapons, communications, and so forth. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Hamas Leader Holding 'Indirect' Talks

TA1310115893 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Oct 93 p 2

[Report from Tunis by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin have been holding indirect contacts on cooperation after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from Gaza.

Palestinian sources in Tunis have told 'AL HAMISHMAR that Shaykh Yasin agreed in the course of these contacts to recognize the post-IDF-withdrawal Gaza Strip as a "liberated land." The rules of the game with the PLO will change accordingly: Instead of strife between groups under occupation, a Palestinian government will be established.

According to the sources, Shaykh Yasin announced that Hamas may participate in elections, albeit only in Gaza and Jericho, and not in other West Bank locations remaining under Israeli occupation.

In addition, Hamas will stop the elimination of collaborators in the "liberated land," but not in territories under occupation.

About two weeks ago, Hakam Bal'awi, one of the heads of the Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Fatah group, announced that Shaykh Yasin had sent Yasir 'Arafat a congratulatory message from the Israeli prison in which he is being held.

The position attributed to Yasin is unacceptable to other Hamas factions. If the report proves to be true, poignant arguments can be expected to disrupt the movement.

Hamas spokesman Mahmud Zahir also declared before he was deported three days ago that he is in favor of "disengagement" between the Palestinians and the IDF. That very same term was used in the Israeli-Palestinian accord.

Gaza Police Chief-Designate on Recruiting Officers

TA1310084893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Ibrahim Musa Muhanna, who will head the Palestinian police force in Gaza, said Palestinian policemen to be recruited will not be asked which organization they belong to and some of them might be members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He told Qol Yisra'el that had he received instructions from Tunis to recruit only 3,000 policemen and to return to active service 400 retired policemen. The Palestinian police force will also recruit women and they will take on all responsibilities except interrogation and patrols. Muhanna also said that even the opponents of the Israeli-PLO accord do not rule out a Palestinian police since it will be the nation's police.

Future Police Force Detailed

NC1310142193 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Oct 13 (AFP)—The PLO has selected 3,000 from the 11,000 candidates to train for the new Palestinian police force on the Gaza Strip, the official in charge of recruitment told AFP Wednesday [13 October].

The officers would be trained on the Gaza Strip, Ibrahim Muhana said, to be part of the corps set up to maintain public order under the September 13 autonomy agreement.

Another 387 former Arab policemen who resigned from the Israeli force at the start of the intifada or uprising in December 1987 will also join the 3,000.

And 60 women recruits will be going for training to Egypt where about 50 men are already at a police academy, Muhana added.

The Gaza force is expected to number 5,000 members, according to Palestine Liberation Organization officials, with another 7,000 on the West Bank.

"This is a Palestinian police force to which any Palestinian can apply and be chosen on the same standards which have nothing to do with political leanings," he said.

The autonomy agreement, which came into effect on Wednesday, calls for the Palestinian force to ensure order for elections to be held by July 13 next year, but gives no other date for the policemen to go on duty.

'Arafat Letter Views Confederation With Jordan

TA1310060793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat believes that the Palestinian entity will in the end unite with Jordan on a confederative basis. That declaration is included in a letter the PLO leader sent to Arab inhabitants of the Galilee, in which he also thanked them for their contributions to advancing the peace process. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that in his letter, 'Arafat says Israeli recognition of the PLO will help to set up an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

PLO Executive Committee Discusses National Authority

TA1310182793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian sources in Tunis have stated to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the PLO Executive Committee began its meetings today to discuss the issue of forming the Palestinian national authority, which will direct and govern the territories on the basis of the Central Council's approval of the authority two days ago. This authority will be headed by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and will be made up of Executive Committee members and some personalities from the territories.

ALF Representative on PLO Committee Suspends Membership

JN1310082193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night met with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who is heading the Israeli delegation to meetings of the Refugee Committee, which began its work in Tunis yesterday.

During the meeting, which was attended by Sa'ib 'Urayqat and Hanan 'Ashrawi, the talks dealt with the preparations under way for the start of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Cairo and Tabah today. 'Arafat handed Beilin a list of names of the Palestinians appointed to negotiate with the Israelis within the framework of four Palestinian-Israeli committees recently agreed upon between 'Arafat and Rabin in Cairo.

In a separate development, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud Isma'il [representative of the Arab Liberation Front on the PLO Executive Committee] yesterday announced the suspension of his PLO Executive Committee membership to protest the endorsement of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

At a news conference held in Tunis, Mahmud Isma'il said that neither the PLO Executive Committee, nor the PLO Central Council are mandated to the endorse the accord.

It is to be recalled that Isma'il is the sixth PLO Executive Committee member to suspend his membership in the 18-man committee to protest the endorsement of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

PLO's Qaddumi Comments on Opposition, UN Role

PM1310142093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Oct 93 p3

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Matar] How do you view the international attitude toward the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement?

[Qaddumi] That was a declaration of principles. We have not yet reached agreement on the issues in question. We should discuss these issues with patience because we know the Israelis, and we know how they procrastinate and try to skip over important issues and dwell too long on some details to avoid important issues. But we feel that the Western world and the world in general are beginning to feel that the problem is on its way to a solution even though the road is full of obstacles and difficulties. Because of that international consensus, we should explain to the world what could be achieved in the coming period and should emphasize that Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, as an initial withdrawal, could mean that there is a glimmer of hope that the final stages of the negotiations would succeed on all Arab tracks. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Would a Palestinian-Israeli agreement after the transitional period depend on progress on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, and would the general framework still be that of a comprehensive solution?

[Qaddumi] It was agreed from the beginning that the solution should be a comprehensive one, and our view was that there should be real progress on the Palestinian track because the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. There can be no doubt that finding a comprehensive solution on all tracks is essential and is something that was agreed upon. [passage omitted]

[Matar] The lack of Palestinian consensus, even within the Executive Committee, had something to do with your own personal position and there were some interpretations and controversy. Could you explain that to us?

[Qaddumi] When the matter was submitted to the official institutions (the Executive Committee and the Central Committee), I made some observations regarding the agreement and its shortcomings. For example, it did not include the phrase "land for peace" and we saw no international guarantees in it. The economic appendixes should also have covered relations with the Arab brothers.

As a matter of fact we can say that there were many such observations. That is why I declared clearly that I was opposed to that agreememt on the declaration of principles. I am a part of the Palestinian institutions, and it is my duty to seek to eliminate these shortcomings and not just take a stand of moral opposition. I will not do that. I will resist these flaws. It is my duty to God and the people to work in the future with all my brothers to eliminate these blemishes and to build internally.

[Matar] There have, in some case, been hasty declarations that what has been achieved constitutes the first step toward an independent Palestinian state whereas, under the declaration of principles, Israel will still be in charge of foreign affairs and defense.

[Qaddumi] In the transitional period, the national authority at home will not have the right to take charge of foreign contacts and defense affairs, but the PLO has all the powers and it will retain responsibility for foreign relations and will keep its embassies, diplomatic missions, and other offices open and they will be responsible for these matters, just as the situation is now. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Are there any secret appendixes?

[Qaddumi] There are no secret appendixes. We have ascertained that.

[Matar] What formula do you expect for relations with Jordan? Will it be a confederation, and is that a precondition for the final solution?

[Qaddumi] Relations with Jordan are special relations as stated in the resolution passed by the [Palestine] National Council [PNC] in 1983. Under that resolution, we view relations with Jordan as fraternal relations to be based on a confederation but subject to the approval of Jordan and subject to Palestinian and Jordanian popular referenda on that principle. [passage omitted]

[Matar] But that has not been dictated as a condition for the final solution?

[Qaddumi] It has never been dictated by any party.

[Matar] There is a point I would like to raise again in relation to the opposition. Syria has been asked to silence the Palestinian opposition but it said, why should there be Israeli opposition but no Palestinian opposition? What is your position on that?

[Qaddumi] Have I not just said that I opposed the agreement because of its shortcomings? We appreciate the opposition to that agreement as a matter of principle.

We have said nothing about that. Who said we object to opposition? Every Palestinian has the right of opposition. Palestine belongs to all the Palestinians. Being in a position of responsibility does not give one the right to deny any Palestinian individual, let alone faction, the right to oppose what we in the PLO decide. They have every right to oppose, but on a democratic basis. These are the principles which govern our relations within the PLO and in the Palestinian arena. [passage omitted]

[Matar] How do you view relations with the United States? (This was hours before his visit to Washington and his meeting with Secretary of State Christopher.)

[Qaddumi] So far, relations are still at the beginning. The dialogue between us and the United States has been reopened and we hope that the United States will, in the future, recognize the PLO and rescind all the congressional resolutions passed against the PLO.

[Matar] Is the United States doing enough?

[Qaddumi] The United States is a sponsor of the peace process and plays an essential part in the negotiations but we know that the United States is Israel's friend. That makes us extremely cautious because the United States does not even conceal its friendship with and support for Israel. It gives Israel material and military aid and says that Israel is its strategic ally. We are neither friends nor allies. We are Israel's adversary. By virtue of its international responsibility, particularly for world peace and security, the United States has a vested interest in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and in safeguarding its interests and stability in the region.

[Matar] Many people believe that it is in the U.S. interest to consolidate the results of the declaration or agreement, especially in the economic field, but it leaves the matter of economic aid to others.

[Qaddumi] You should address that question to the United States, not to us. It seeks to preserve its interests. We also have interests and we want to safeguard our interests in the Arab region. So, each party has interests and we do not want our interests to clash or come into conflict with the interests of the United States as the sole superpower in the world, but we are not prepared to cede an iota of our interests because that would mean continuation of the conflict in the region between us and Israel. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Why has 'Arafat asked the UN secretary general to deploy UN forces between Gaza and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan?

[Qaddumi] Actually, the United Nations has tackled the Palestinian question and it was the United Nations which passed the partition resolution and should, therefore, play an effective part in the settlement, but Israel rejects any UN role despite the fact Israel's birth certificate was issued by the United Nations under Resolution 181. Israel now does not want that resolution to be used as a term of reference in the settlement of the Middle East problem. We insist that all these resolutions combined must constitute the basis of the peace process.

[Matar] Is that why UN observers should be deployed between Egypt and Gaza?

[Qaddumi] There should be no objection to that because the United Nations is the body trusted to play such a role and to dispatch its forces to ensure implementation of any agreement reached on other matters. We want to preserve the areas from which withdrawal takes place. The presence of the United Nations would prevent Israel from returning to the areas it withdraws from. [passage omitted]

[Matar] That leaves the issue of the refugees. Is there any interest in settling them somewhere or are there real efforts to repatriate them?

[Qaddumi] We reject settlement of the refugees in any Arab or foreign country. We insist on their repatriation to their homes wherever they may be and whatever they are called.

[Matar] Including the 1948 refugees?

[Qaddumi] Yes, including 1948. [passage omitted]

Formation of Joint PFLP-DFLP Command Revealed

JN1310114293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Oct 93 p 16

[Excerpt] Amman—Quds Press—'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, a member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has revealed the formation of a joint command for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], under the leadership of Nayif Hawatimah.

In a statement to Quds Press Agency, Malluh said: We made a large stride on the road to full unity with the comrades in the DFLP. He added: We formed a joint command for the PFLP and DFLP with one authority and one decisionmaking body overlooking the institutions of both fronts. He noted that decisions will not be made on the basis of reconciliation, but rather on the basis of settling issues in accordance with a democratic majority vote. We believe that we will soon be able to achieve a merger between the PFLP and the DFLP. Malluh expected this to take place early next year, noting that this unity should not only be confined to the command level, but should also include the two fronts' institutions and frameworks.

Malluh, who recently resigned his position as a member of the PLO Executive Committee to protest the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, said that the PFLP will continue to launch armed attacks against Israeli targets from outside and inside the occupied territories, noting the possibility of launching military attacks on Israeli targets abroad. He said: We neither halted nor announced a halt to our action outside Palestine. We consider this our right. He noted that only political and geographic considerations or individual capabilities could obstruct this action. He stressed that it is the Palestinian people's right to struggle in order to restore their rights. This is a sacred and legitimate right everywhere surrounding Palestine. He noted that the operation the PFLP tried to carry out in Lebanon came in this context. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Praises Syria's Position on Accord

JN1210164893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, 12 Oct (SANA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said the Palestinian people highly appreciate Syria's position, under President Hafiz al-Asad, on the Gaza-Jericho agreement, especially Syria's assertion that this question should be left up to the Palestinian people and their institutions.

In an interview with TISHRIN published today, Hawatimah said the Gaza-Jericho agreement has the support of a divided bureaucratic minority, noting that the majority of the Palestinian people inside and in the diaspora reject the agreement.

Hawatimah reaffirmed that the DFLP supports a comprehensive, balanced peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict within the context of international legitimacy and Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 194, and 227.

Hawatimah also said the Gaza-Jericho agreement is one of submission and a destructive, divisive deal. He added that the agreement is doomed to fail and will be thwarted.

PFLP Identifies 3 'Fighters' Killed in South Lebanon

JN1310131993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] A responsible military source at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, has stated that the three fighters killed in the Israeli-occupied border strip of southern Lebanon belonged to the PFLP. The source added that they were on their way to the occupied territories when they ran into an Israeli Army ambush near al-Qantarah.

PNC's al-Fahum Lauds al-Asad, Criticizes 'Arafat's Behavior

JN1310131493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Oct (SANA)—Khalid al-Fahum, the speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has praised Syria's stand, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, toward the peace process.

In an interview with TISHRIN published today, al-Fahum described President Hafiz al-Asad as a firm, capable, and calm man with depth and vision. He noted that President al-Asad always reiterates that Palestine is as important as the Golan and that Jerusalem is like the Golan.

Al-Fahum rejected Yasir 'Arafat's behavior, saying that every sincere Arab feels pain because of his behavior. He noted that 'Arafat is trying to impose the Gaza-Jericho agreement on the Palestinian people.

Al-Fahum cast aspersions on the ratification of the Gaza-Jericho agreement by the PLO Central Council, which recently met in Tunis. He said that 'Arafat added a number of his advocates and supporters to the PLO Central Council. He said that the Council does not have the authority to make decisions on issues like the Gaza-Jericho agreement, stressing that this agreement is a tragedy to the Palestinian issue and struggle and is a great deception in favor of Israel, noting that this agreement will fail.

Al-Fahum praised the intifadah's role inside the occupied territories and emphasized its continuation, noting that it is now coherent and has a unified national leadership.

People's Party Refuses To Designate Committee Delegates

TA1310192293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Oct 93 p 2

[By Hani 'Arafat]

[Text] Tunis, Ramallah—It has been learned that the Palestinian People's Party has refused to designate its delegates in the liaison committee headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and the Gaza-Jericho committee headed by President 'Arafat's adviser, Nabil Sha'th. These two committees are expected to convene today in Cairo and Tabah.

In a telephone contact made last evening in the Tunisian capital with a responsible source in the People's Party, he said that the party adopted this position because of disagreement over the existence of a point of reference for these committees, which were formed on the basis of a decision by the PLO Executive Committee. The other reasons for adopting this position concern the makeup of the negotiating teams and the Palestinians side's future plans upon assuming authority and powers.

The source added that the party's participation or non-participation in the two committees hinge on the results of the talks now underway between a Fatah delegation headed by Yasir 'Arafat and a People's Party delegation headed by general secretary Bashir al-Barghuthi, who is currently in Tunis.

'Fundamendalists' in Anti-Accord Strike, Clashes

NC1310125293 Paris AFP in English 1128 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Report by Barry Parker]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Oct 13 (AFP)—The beginning of the end of Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip and Jericho was marred Wednesday [13 October] by clashes with soldiers and a strike called by Islamic fundamentalists opposed to the PLO autonomy deal.

Troops opened fire and wounded two demonstrators at Dayr al-Balah refugee camp after they came under a hail of rocks, a correspondent reported.

One of the two youths was shot in the chest and seriously injured.

Soldiers also broke up a protest at Jabalya refugee camp where about 150 youths protested against the autonomy agreement.

In Rafah, on the border with Egypt, masked Palestinians from the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine stopped cars which were on the road in defiance of the strike and slashed their tyres.

Palestinian militants also fired warning shots in the air at Rafah.

The historic accord came into effect with HAMAS declaring a general strike on the first day, during which negotiations start in Egypt on implementing autonomy.

The stoppage, backed by threats of violence, paralysed the Gaza Strip but had less effect on the West Bank.

Only schools remained open with all shops and other workplaces closed. Traffic was light on the West Bank but roads were deserted in Gaza where protestors burnt tyres at road junctions and soldiers patrolled in force.

The strike is supported by 10 Palestinian groups fiercely opposed to the deal and sworn to boycott all the institutions of the autonomous regime.

"We warn that any one who breaks the strike will be punished," HAMAS warned, in slogans painted on the walls of Gaza City. [passage omitted]

Radio Criticizes 'Hesitant' Accord Opposition

JN1210155693 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, today our (?struggling) Palestinian people, through their legitimate and [words indistinct] frameworks, are facing a [words indistinct] mission in the history of their struggle to regain their legitimate rights to their land and homeland and build their independent state on their soil [words indistinct] after the eviction of occupation troops.

Such a mission, which is a top priority for every Palestinian [word indistinct] and sincere to his people and country dictate that the ranks must be closed as much as possible. It also dictates that all national forces must be pooled to fulfill this mission and sketch a prosperous Palestinian future on the ruins of ugly occupation.

What causes regret, however, is the fact that some have forgotten, or pretend to have forgotten, that (?our) struggle has always been a means to [word indistinct] occupation from [word indistinct] soil and (?establish) the Palestinian national identity on every inch of the homeland that can be liberated, or from which the occupation troops withdraw. Undoubtedly, everyone knows that [words indistinct] (?integrated) political [word indistinct] has been supported by the overwhelming majority of our Palestinian people and their political forces, with their various names and intellectual and ideological orientations.

What is strange is the fact that the forces that are currently criticizing the Palestinian leadership have always been a partner in decisionmaking. These forces, in particular, have always considered that Palestine National Council and PLO Central Council resolutions give greater weight to any decision reached by a decision of the PLO Executive Committee. What is even stranger is that these forces are now denying the PLO Central Council the right to decide on a fateful mission. They do so without any warning, as if the mission [words indistinct] on selfish, own interests, if we rule out other considerations that everyone knows.

Those forces have always advocated opposition, which they considered constructive, through legitimate frameworks. Why is the case different now? In their view, has the real opposition become the one that devours the Palestinian's flesh and works on destroying his constitutional institutions and national achievements? Was this not the objective the occupation force sought to achieve over the long years of struggle? How were our people's achievements scored? Through revolutionary statements and sentences, or through the blood of martyrs, the tears of widows and mothers of the dead, and the steadfastness of the militants, who have always been and are still fully ready to confront the occupation forces in all arenas, everywhere and at any time.

To these people we say: You cannot hide the sun. The bells of return are tolling and the banner of Palestine and its people will be held by the pioneers and the those who take the initiative. It will never be at the hands of the hesitant people and the [word indistinct].

Accord 'First Step' on Road to Peace

LD1410083993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Oct

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O brothers, the 13th of September was the day of declaring the birth of the State of Palestine before the whole world and under the world's sponsorship and support. That birth was the challenge of peace. That challenge was an objective response to the brave decision undertaken by the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships, notwithstanding their respective private and objective difficulties because of their conviction in the peace option as the only way to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and also the Arab-Israeli one, and to realize the peace of the brave in the holy land of peace, to accomplish the historic dream of the Palestinian and the Israeli peoples by terminating the hostility and fighting which continued throughout the last century.

What has been achieved was historic, indeed, although it was far below the level of the Palestinian people's aspiration. Yet it is of extreme importance not only because it is possible in the current objective circumstances, but also because it provides the guarantee for the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] as its sole representative by Israel and the United States for the first time, thus completing the universal recognition of Palestine—an entity, representation, and leadership.

The birth of the State of Palestine, embodied by the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord as a practical exercise stressing the mutual recognition between the PLO and the Israeli Government, is also important in that it stipulates the realization of an integrated settlement on the basis of the UN Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338, the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza strip and Jericho area within a few months, the redeployment of the Israeli forces in other areas outside the populated areas in the cities, villages, and camps, the handover of authority from the Israeli civil administration to the elected Palestinian council, and the departure of the military rule to be replaced by the Palestinian security forces which will be formed from elements both inside and outside [Palestine]. The accord ensures the control of our people over its fate and affairs and the right of those who left in 1967 to return during the transitional period.

There are big problems that hinder the settlement and they are awaiting the implementation of practical measures. They are bound to happen due to Israeli, Palestinian, and Israeli-Palestinian causes.

The positive elements of the Palestinian-Israeli accord would not solve all the issues that constitute the basis of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; however, the agreement of the PLO on them went hand-in-hand with its insistence on every other Palestinian right and demand at the fore of which are Jerusalem, the refugees, the settlements, and the borders, all of which will be discussed, as agreed, two years from the beginning of the transitional period.

In his official address at the ceremony of the Declaration of Principles, brother Mahmud 'Abbas, was determined to underline this very clearly. While brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] on his part, was also keen to stress the same in his official address at that ceremony. In this regard, he said: The implementation of the accord and the moving forward towards a final settlement, two years after the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in all their respects, the solution of the questions of Jerusalem, the settlements, and the borders is an Israeli responsibility as well as a comprehensive international responsibility, helping to overcome the huge difficulties, which are still hindering the process, and to arrive at a final and comprehensive peace.

What has been achieved constitutes a step towards an historic glorious reconciliation. It is for the first time that practical steps would be taken that would be translated directly in the establishment of the Palestinian national authority in the Jericho area and Gaza Strip. It could be considered the actual starting point in the right direction on the road to solving the conflict. However, it continues to be linked to what can be achieved in terms of a just solution to the central issues, for what can be achieved at this level constitutes the actual foundation on which the final, just, and comprehensive settlement for the conflict in the region could be based.

True the occasion is solemn, and there are words that befit each occasion, however, all speakers, while speaking of peace and committing themselves to work for peace, were keen to clarify their conception of the meaning of peace before the entire world.

Palestine, whose practical birth was declared in that ceremony, has committed herself to the peace mission, to the peace option and to the peace program.

Within the Palestinian concept of peace for the State of Palestine, President 'Arafat stressed, before the entire world, that our people consider that the practice of its right to self-determination does not constitute an act of aggression on the rights of its neighbors nor an infringement on their security. On the contrary, the elimination of the feeling of unfairness and the historic injustice is the biggest guarantee for achieving coexistence and openness between our two peoples and our future generations.

Our concept of peace is mutual cooperation, good neighborliness, building bridges of mutual understanding and trust, putting an end to hostility and fighting, stopping the fall of victims, preventing destruction, formulating new relations and links based on parity and equality away from the hatreds of the yesterday and the bitterness of the past, and looking forward, with hope, to the future.

We have raised the banner of peace, for some time, and we were happy to find someone waving the same banner on the other side, although a bit late. We met and negotiated. We differed and negotiated hence we familiarized ourselves more about each other. We kept negotiating until we were able to accomplish this accord, hence this great achievement.

The spirit with which we negotiated, the atmosphere in which we signed the accord, and the feelings and sentiments that accompanied all that were all mixed with optimism and pleasure, all of which allow us to reaffirm that the implementation of the accord, in all its aspects, meticulously respecting its timetable and rallying of international efforts to provide all political and economic requirements for its success, remain the true yardstick to judge the seriousness of all concerned parties and the way they will abide by their commitments and pledges.

Since the main challenge of the coming phase that confronts the Palestinian people is the process of economic development, the international community has to shoulder its direct responsibility at this level, particularly because the PLO institutions and its organs had been strained, throughout the past years of the struggle, with a heavy and exhausting burden the consequences of which it [the PLO] became incapable of playing its role immediately in the field of development.

The signing the Palestinian-Israeli accord, as it has declared the birth of the State of Palestine, constitutes a fundamental step on the road of completing other steps of the peace process in the transitional and final phases. It responds directly to the brave decision announced by the Palestinian and the Israeli leaderships in order to accomplish the peace of the brave.

The Israelis said to the Palestinians : al-salam 'alaykum [peace be upon you] and the Palestinians have replied: al-salam lana wa lakum [peace be for us and for you].

Peace for the land of peace which awaits peace. It began on 13 September, the first step on the real road towards peace.

Algeria

HCE Forms National Dialogue Committee

LD1310130793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The Higher State Council [HCE] today issued a statement announcing the formation of the Committee for National Dialogue.

The HCE points that its dialogue with the representatives of political formations and the Movement for Consensus Politics who have chosen the path of dialogue has allowed the drafting and the publication of a draft project for consensus, which is being put forward for examination and contributions.

The HCE adds that reaction and remarks already made have shown agreement on the main issues, but that there are, however, some differences.

In order to overcome such differences, the HCE statement points out, necessary conditions must be provided for convening a national conference. Hence, the HCE prefers to set up an independent committee made up of personalities who are aware of the problems facing them and the fruitful moves they ought to make with the various political formations, as well as social forces and personalities. This will help ensure the convocation of the national conference and its successful outcome, which would lead to the adoption of a platform for the organization of the transitional period.

The committee will include the following personalities: Abdelkader Bensalah, Abdelouahab Bouadis, Mohamed Touati, Youcef Khatib, Tayeb Derradji, Taha Tayar, Kacem Kebir, and Ahmed Senhadji.

The HCE, in parallel with the main and urgent issues of how to restore the prestige of the authorities and the state, as well as the restoration of public order, the fight against terrorism and economic revival, and which has given precedence to national dialogue, believes that the only means for allowing the country to overcome its crises lies in the participation of all dynamic forces in the formation of a new political and economic system that will allow the country to make a clean break with the past.

HCE Talks With Parties

LD1210100993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The four parties that have thus far met with the Higher State Council [HCE] chairman expressed their positions toward dialogue and national reconciliation. The Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA] sees that national reconciliation is necessary to promote a serious and responsible dialogue with the active political forces in society for achieving a national consensus that would take the country out of the whirlwind of dangers surrounding it as represented by the existing multilateral crisis.

The members of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] had in their recent national council announced that they are for the principle of participating in the national seminar and affirmed their rejection of the empty chair policy.

As for the Islamic Society Movement [HAMAS], it renewed its commitment to dialogue as a peaceful method to ensure a partnership in power or a means of rotating it, affirming the need to involve everyone, without exception, in this dialogue. Concerning the multilateral crisis through which the country is passing, [HAMAS leader] Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah sees that it requires dialogue from all parties and that they should set aside their partisan convictions and put Algeria above any consideration.

Kafi Meets Envoys Before Leaving for Posts

LD1110085993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] When meeting new Algerian ambassadors before their departure for their new posts, Higher State Council [HCE] Chairman Ali Kafi made a speech in which he talked comprehensively about developments in the general situation in the country at the security and economic levels. He pointed out the efforts the state has been making to bring the country out of the crisis through which it has been passing.

Chairman Ali Kafi stressed in this connection the importance of political and economic reforms. He underlined that the dialogue with political parties and leaders will continue and strengthen.

The HCE chairman stressed that the phenomenon of violence and terrorism affected all the Algerian society. Accordingly, it should be combatted most resolutely and firmly. It should also be the subject of a clear condemnation—without any reservation—by the political class and civilian society.

Four 'Terrorists' Killed in Laghouat

LD1210220893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Four terrorists have been killed, and a large quantity of weapons and medicine recovered, which had been seized by a terrorist group following its attack on a National Gendarmerie unit in Laghouat. Here is the story:

[Unidentified correspondent] The Lagouat security and gendarmerie authority has managed to eliminate four terrorists and recover a number of weapons and ammunition in the areas of (Kasr El Bzaim) and (Chetit). The weapons, which the terrorists seized during their attack on a gendarmerie patrol in Kasr El Hirane and during which five gendarmes were killed, were among the first lot of the recovered weapons. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] These weapons and ammunition were discovered in an underground cache in (Chetit), east of Lagouat, in a rural area where they used to hide.

Dembri on Efforts To Develop Trade with EC

LD1310141993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who started a visit to Brussels yesterday, has told his interlocutors of Algeria's decision to initiate talks with the EC in order to reach an agreement on how business should be conducted between Algeria and the EC. More details with our correspondent Hocine Berrada:

[Berrada] Mohamed Salah Dembri, in an interview with APS, said that Algeria will be holding talks with the EC in order to initiate business, which should progress in steps toward the setting up of a free trade zone, a step Morocco and Tunisia have already agreed on with the EC.

Mr. Dembri pointed out that Algeria's decision was made in order to consolidate the Maghreban moves as a whole and to close gaps which cannot remain.

Our foreign minister disclosed that he had received the full support of the EC and Belgium for economic reforms and the government program, and pointed out that the support Algeria needs will be determined in future in such a way that will allow Algeria to overcome the deficit, which might hinder the management of the national economy.

Algeria's decision to begin talks on how to do business with the EC is viewed with optimism. The Belgian foreign minister and current president of the EC Ministerial Council described the decision as important because it will open the doors for cooperation between the two sides in all spheres.

[Announcer] Mohamed Salah Dembri will address the European Parliament's foreign and security committee, and he is expected to hold a news conference to explain the spheres for cooperation between Algeria and the EC.

Prime Minister Receives British Official

LD1210162193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister and Redha Malek, member of the HSC [Higher State Council], this morning received British Minister of State for Energy Tim Eggar.

The meeting was attended by Energy Minister Ahmed Benbitour, the British ambassador in Algeria, representatives of British Petroleum and British Gas, and the director general of Sonatrach.

Following the meeting, the British minister of state for energy expressed his country's desire to consolidate the fruitful cooperation with Algeria, in particular between the two British companies for gas and petroleum and Sonatrach.

Malian Prime Minister Comments on Refugees

LD0610211593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Malian Prime Minister Abdoulaye Sekou Sow was received by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi. After the meeting, the Malian prime minister made the following statement:

I have a message for his excellency the chairman of the Higher State Council. This is a message of fraternity and friendship from Oumar Alpha Konare to the Algerian people and officials. Cooperation between Mali and Algeria is exemplary. The return of refugees to their country is a complex problem. We had many problems in the implementation of the treaty at this level. The return of refugees is linked to the fulfillment of several conditions, including the preparation of facilities and the return of the administration. We face these problems, and it is not strange that there is sometimes a delay in completing various operations. The last scheduled operation was delayed because of the causes I mentioned; however, we are optimistic in finding a solution so that our citizens can return to their country one day.

Egypt

'Text' of Sidqi Resignation Letter

NC1310212193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today submitted his government's resignation letter to President Husni Mubarak. The following is the text of the letter:

Mr. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, greetings.

The referendum held on 4 October 1993 reflected the Egyptian people's insistence on and pride in your excellency's leadership of their national march. The masses flocked into polling stations with a peerless enthusiasm and in an epic of love, loyalty, and admiration to say yes to a third term of office, in a popular consensus exceeding 96 percent. The referendum could not have shown a different result; the Egyptian people could not have chosen anyone other than the leader of the march of total reform, development, democracy, sovereignty of the law, stability, social justice, and peace.

Our designation to form a cabinet at the beginning of your excellency's second term of office on 12 October 1987 was a source of pride and honor to us. Since the first moment, I and my fellow government members have been very diligent in performing the tasks your excellency entrusted to us. To achieve that goal, we fought a battle, paying no heed to purposeful criticism or misleading slogans by the enemies of reform. We committed ourselves to the priorities you set. Hence, we pursued the economic reform policy, which involved the completion of the infrastructure; the rehabilitation of the productive foundation for both commodities and services; the modernization of the productive bases; the rectification of the taxation system; the remarkable reduction of the deficit in the balance of payment; the liberation of the public sector, its substitution with the public business sector, and the encouragement of the private sector to share its ownership and partake of its management without encroaching on its basics; the liberation of foreign trade in the context of a balanced policy that provides sufficient protection to domestic products; and the rectification of energy and services prices.

In doing that, we were careful to follow your directives to relieve the burden of the low-income groups; expand exports and remove the restrictions on both exports and imports; overcome the problem of disorganized wholesale markets; correct exchange and interest rates and subject them to the power of supply and demand; organize the capital market and provide a favorable climate for investment; remove the obstacles and constraints that restrained the private sector; and improve and upgrade the performance of the banking sector and enhance the Egyptian Central Bank's control on it.

Mr. President, the government has devoted much attention to the development of the Armed Forces and to the introduction of the most up-to-date armament technology and to the provision of an advanced industrial base for the production of weapons. It backed the police force with all the resources that enable it to perform its duty and raise the policemen's efficiency and morale. Thus the government has succeeded, with the grace of God, with your backing, and with the determination of the Armed Forces and the police force, in providing security for the homeland and safety to the citizens and in confronting the terrorist elements that operate outside the bounds of law.

As as result of your balanced foreign policy and your purposeful diplomacy, the government has succeeded in reducing a great part of Egypt's foreign debts. I seize this opportunity to hail your persistent efforts to achieve peace and justice in our Arab region, whose positive results appeared in the recent developments in the Middle East issue. Thus, the winds of the courageous peace have blown over the region's countries and the world has testified to Egypt's and your excellency's leadership.

The establishment of the social fund and the alleviation of the burdens of the low income groups through annual increases in wages and various forms of pensions have continued throughout the past years. The government has also paid interest to the reform of the education system and curricula; the development of human and intellectual resources of leaders and workers at all levels; the great stride in the tourism, cultural, and information sectors; the improvement in the level of services in the housing, agricultural, irrigation, public health, electricity, communications, transport, and social security sectors; the elimination and facilitation of the judiciary procedures; the strengthening of cooperation between production centers and scientific research centers; and the tangible reduction, for the first time, in the rate of population growth.

Mr. President, I take this opportunity to refer to the expansion of democracy; the commitment to the principles of consultations; the masses' participation in the political decision-making process; the guarantees of freedom of expression, opinion, press, and publication; and the cooperation between the government and the constitutional establishments.

Mr. President, these are some of the achievements made. I hasten to underline that the success made by the government of the National Democratic Party, which has the honor of being led by you, was due to your instructions and in accordance with your orders.

Mr. President, since we were asked to form the government in accordance with the Constitution, I and the members of my government submit to your excellency the government's resignation in accordance with the constitutional traditions and legitimacy and in accordance with the decision made by the Cabinet at its meeting on 25 Rabi' al-Akhir 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 13 October 1993.

Mr. President, while submitting this resignation, I extend on behalf of all my colleagues in the government and on my personal behalf our thanks and pride in your kind words and appreciation as per your speech before the esteemed People's Assembly yesterday. We regard this appreciation as a medal for each one of us. We pray to God Almighty to fulfill Egypt's hopes through you and protect you and pray that your third presidential term will be the start of a happy era, God willing, and be full of blessings, progress, and prosperity for our beloved Egypt.

Please accept, Mr. President, my deepest respects.

[dated] 25 Rabi' al-Akir 1414 Hegira

13 October 1993

[Signed] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi

On Goals of New Cabinet

NC1310210093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Designate Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stressed that the task of the new cabinet will be to complete what the former cabinet started on four basic tracks: economic, social, political, and the peace process. He made this statement on his arrival at the government house at noon today. He noted that the substance of these four tracks is to serve the economic reforms process and Egypt. He said that the function of the new cabinet is to back these tracks to reach the goals of peace and wellbeing that we cherish.

Speaking on future steps, Dr. Sidqi pointed out that President Mubarak was clear in his speech before the

People's Assembly yesterday, noting that entrusting him with forming the cabinet is a task of which he is proud. He said that entrusting him with this mission is intended to serve Egypt and improve performance in the interest of all sons of the people, particularly those who frequent the various government offices.

Dr. Sidqi stressed that peace is an unequivocal course that Egypt has endorsed and that coexistence in peace instead of conflict is essential. He noted that President Mubarak was successful in this approach not only in the region but also in Africa and the whole world, which won Egypt, its policy, and President Mubarak's leadership enormous appreciation and respect. He stressed that the mission at this stage is to back these tracks to reach the goals of prosperity and peace that we cherish for the Egyptian people.

'Text' of Sidqi Cabinet Designation Letter

NC1310213793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today received a letter of designation to form a new cabinet from President Husni Mubarak. The following is the text of the letter:

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, greetings.

I received your letter dated 12 October 1993, in which you submitted yours and your fellow cabinet members' resignation in accordance with constitutional provisions on the occasion of the beginning of my third term as president of the Republic.

I would like to express my appreciation of the enormous efforts you have made since you were entrusted with the task of prime minister, as well as of the good results you achieved in many spheres during a period of growing challenges for our country.

We have noted your high efficiency in performing your duty and shouldering the responsibility in full objectivity and perseverance. We have also noted your eagerness to safeguard public interest, your commitment to the approach of planning and scientific study, and your eagerness to maintain coordination between the Council of Ministers and all other state organs and institutions.

It goes without saying that we will encounter great challenges in the years to come. Some of these challenges will be a continuation of what we faced in the past as a result of changes at the local and foreign levels and others will be dictated by new conditions at a stage in which the world approaches the 21st century amid deep transformations involving many regimes.

Sensing your efficiency and capability to shoulder the responsibility, I have decided to assign you once again the task of forming the government to continue what we have started to achieve successfully, build on it, and add what is necessary to cope with the changing conditions and renewed challenges and realize the lawful hopes and aspirations of our struggling people, who have demonstrated their deep awareness, historic and unique perception, and excellent ability to rise to the level of the challenges under all circumstances.

We are confident that you and the colleagues you will select will dedicate yourselves to the achievement of the nation's goals in the years to come, giving top priority to the following pursuits:

1. To continue economic reform, with special emphasis on increasing production and restricting foreign borrowing to essential cases.

2. To safeguard the homeland's and the citizens' security and safety and to enhance the stability needed for the march of reform, construction, and progress.

3. To give special attention to the issue of consolidating social justice, taking care of the low-income groups and shanty towns inhabitants, and working to upgrade the standard of living of the hard-working categories of our great people.

4. To double efforts to address the problem of unemployment and develop the necessary policies to provide all possible opportunities of productive jobs for Egyptian youth, who are our goal and hope, both in the present and in the future.

5. To forge ahead with the educational reform program at the various levels, depending on the program, for the development of elementary and vocational education.

6. To pay more attention to the rates of population growth to enable society to dedicate all its energies and resources to development and the upgrading of services to all popular categories.

7. To make more efforts to eliminate bureaucracy and facilitate procedures to enable every citizen to receive state services in the shortest possible time and with the least possible procedures.

I wholeheartedly wish you success in your task.

Cairo, 26 Rabi' al-Akhir 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 13 October 1993.

[Signed] Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Labor Party Secretary General Released

NC1110055693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—The Supreme State Security prosecution this afternoon decided to release 'Adil Husayn, Labor Party secretary general and former editor in chief of the newspaper AL-SHA'B, on bail of 2,000 pounds.

The prosecution questioned 'Adil Husayn regarding some articles he wrote for AL-SHA'B that favored terrorism and were harmful to social peace and national unity. He was also questioned regarding the party's activities in propagating the ideology of the Islamist groups and attacking some state figures.

The State Security prosecution today summoned Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party and chairman of the AL-SHA'B board of directors, to appear before the prosecution on Tuesday for questioning concerning some of the party's activities and what was published in the newspaper.

Second Leader Released

NC1310221193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution Office has decided to release Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri without bail. The Prosecution Office interrogated him in his capacity as Labor Party leader and as a writer in the AL-SHA'B newspaper for propagating (?hostile) ideas and calling for contempt and hatred of the regime and offending certain state leaders and symbols.

The Prosecution Office also decided to again summon Dr. Hilmi Murad, Labor Party deputy leader, and AL-SHA'B journalists 'Adil Husayn, Salah Budaywi, and 'Ali al-Qammash to complete interrogations with them tomorrow morning regarding accusations involving, among other things, publishing reports that may cause confusion in public opinion, offending certain state symbols, and encouraging terrorist and extremist thinking. The Higher State Security Prosecution Office had earlier released these reporters on bail pending further investigation.

Court Hands Down Death, Prison Sentences

NC1410113293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Oct (MENA)—The Higher Military Court in Alexandria today sentenced to death Yahya Mustafa Shahrur, the first defendant in the Vanguards of Conquest case No. 3, in which 33 defendants are on trial. The court also handed down a 15-year prison sentence at hard labor on Khalid al-Sayyid Hashim, Hasan Muhammad Siyam, and Ayman Zaki al-Sawi; a 10-year prison sentence at hard labor on Yusuf 'Abd-al-Raziq Sharaf and Yusuf Siddiq; and a five-year prison sentence at hard labor on Ahmad Sa'id Sulayman and Hilal 'Uthman Mursi. The court sentenced 'Abd-al-Rahim Ibrahim Abu-'Aylah, 'Abd-al-Rahman Darwish Muhammad, Hani Yahya 'Abd-Rabbuh, Sabir Tawfiq 'Afifi, Muhammad al-Sayyid al-Dasuqi, Isma'il Isma'il Lashin, Diya' Yusuf al-'Azmah, and Sha'ban Muhammad 'Abdallah to five years imprisonment at hard labor. Defendant Muhammad 'Abd-al- Salam Shahrur was sentenced to five years in prison and a 500-pound fine. Defendant Rabi' Muhammad al-Shaykh 'Ali was sentenced to three years in prison.

Policeman Killed by Unknown Assailants

NC1210140393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1249 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Undercover Police Sergeant Qurani Hasan from the Asyut Police Force was martyred at the Bani Qurrah rail station in Manfalut early today. According to an Interior Ministry security official, unknown assailants shot him on his way to work and took his weapon. Hasan was hit several times in the head and once in his left hand.

Asyut Security Directorate officials, State Security detectives, Asyut undercover police detectives, Public Security officials, and forensic experts left immediately for the scene. The Prosecutor's Office was informed.

The Interior Ministry source said that security forces are combing the surrounding area. Efforts are under way to identify the culprits and seize the weapon used in the assault.

Indian Official Arrives for Visit

NC1310071593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Amritsar Nahayita, the Indian prime minister's envoy and minister of state for external affairs [name as received], arrived here this evening@on a few days' visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the Indian official said he was carrying an invitation to President Husni Mubarak from the Indian prime minister to attend the meetings of the Group of 15 in India between 13 and 15 December. He said the meetings will discuss cooperation among Group members, dialogue between North and South, and solving the problems of poor countries. He said he will meet Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid, and Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din.

Meets With Mubarak

NC1310081593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Amritsar Nahayita, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs and the Indian prime minister's envoy [name as received].

The Indian envoy arrived in Cairo last night on an official visit to Egypt of several days. He is carrying an invitation to President Mubarak from the Indian prime minister to attend the Group of 15 meetings in India from 13 to 15 December.

Libya

Official Asks Envoys To Work Against Sanctions

NC1310134193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that Jum'ah al-Fazzani, chairman of the People's General Committee for Unity, asked the heads of the Egyptian, Tunisian, and Mauritanian diplomatic missions in Tripoli at a meeting today to double their efforts to avert any escalation of sanctions on Libya when the UN Security Council meets to discuss Libya's crisis with the West.

Egypt currently chairs the OAU, Mauritania the current Arab League session, and Tunisia the current session of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Our agency has learned that al-Fazzani will meet the representatives of the seven-member committee formed by the Arab League to discuss the Libyan crisis with the West. This committee includes Egypt, Syria, and the Arab Maghreb Union states. He will also meet the heads of diplomatic missions of the UN Security Council members.

Al-Fazzani briefed the representatives of Egypt, Mauritania, and Tunisia on the statement issued by the defense panel in charge of defending the Libyans suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie incident. He also briefed them on developments in the dispute between Libya and the West.

Suspects' Lawyer Views Efforts To Reach Understanding

NC1410101093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Oct (MENA)—Ibrahim Legwell, coordinator of the defense panel for the two Libyan citizens suspected of bombing the Pan-American plane over Lockerbie in 1988, said that the Libyan Jamahiriyah wants to keep all doors open as much as possible and according to sound legal measures to ensure a fair trial for the two suspects.

In a statement to MENA, Legwell expressed the hope that the U.S. reply to the possibility of reaching an understanding on a fair trial for these two citizens will be positive. He said that he and the defense panel, consisting of 12 international legal experts, are prepared to meet with their U.S. counterparts to explain the Libyan viewpoint and reach an understanding on all aspects of the trial. He indicated that such a meeting would open several channels of communication.

Legwell accused the Scottish side of starting a media war and turning the case into a political battle. He said that Libya has not yet received an official reply from the British side.

Al-Bishari on Lawyers' Discussions

NC0810164993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative at the Arab League, left Cairo for Paris today. Before his departure he announced that efforts are continuing to close the Lockerbie file, particularly as numerous world confrontations, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, are being settled.

Al-Bishari pointed out that U.S., British, and French lawyers held a series of meetings in Tripoli in the past few days with the Libyan suspects and Libyan lawyers. He explained that the purpose of the talks was to solve the case in line with UN Security Council Resolution 731.

Finance Secretary Speaks at IMF Meeting

LD1010213493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 10 Oct (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General Popular Committee for Planning, Trade, and Finance, in a speech he delivered at the meetings of the International Bank and the IMF, which was held in Washington recently, affirmed that the threats to apply economic and financial sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah and to freeze its assets, bears the mark of a blatant breach of the provisions of the IMF agreement, which does not permit member states to take any restrictive measures that tend to impede international payments or hamper the normal flow of goods and services.

The brother secretary explained that the threat to step up the coercive measures shows that the Western states have no respect for international laws, agreements, and conventions, and that it is a violation of the principles of human rights, which are championed by these states.

The brother secretary said in his speech that the Great Jamahiriyah calls for earnest action to tackle the economic and financial problems which affect our nations, and this is in order to realize security, prosperity, eliminate poverty, illiteracy, and chronic diseases.

He added that the Great Jamahiriyah had clarified at previous annual meetings the negative results of trade barriers by industrialized states against the trade of developing countries and the serious consequences of such actions. He pointed out that the marked drop in the revenues of the developing nations and depriving them of important incomes that would strengthen their economy has led to the deterioration of economic and social development programs and to increasing their indebtedness. He affirmed that the industrialized states still work for entrenching these barriers against the trade of the developing states.

The brother secretary of the General Popular Committee for Planning, Trade, and Finance concluded his speech at the meeting of the International Bank and IMF, saying that the Great Jamahiriyah deems it necessary that the markets of the industrialized states are opened to the exports of the developing countries, in order to create a world that complements itself and in which the benefits are exchanged and prosperity spread to its various regions.

Burkinabe President Arrives in Tripoli

LD0910204593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Compaore was given an official reception. Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir [commander in chief of the Armed Forces] led those receiving him. [passage omitted]

Upon arrival, President Compaore made a statement to JANA in which he said:

[Begin Compaore recording, in French with superimposed Arabic translation] As you know, this visit falls within the framework of brotherhood and friendship that links our peoples and countries. I want to let you know of the extent of our happiness to be on Libyan Arab territory.

We will take advantage of our presence here to discuss with the leader our bilateral relations, and also international issues of common interest. Thus, this visit comes at a time when the relationships between the two countries are excellent. We also want to convey to the Libyan people the greetings of our people, the people of Burkina Faso. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ukrainian President Sends Message To Mark Anniversary

LD0910114493 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Timur [October] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The president of the Ukraine asserted in a congratulatory message to the leader of the revolution on the 24th anniversary of the great al-Fatah revolution his country's desire to increase Bnd develop joint cooperation with the Great Jamahiriyah.

He stressed that this desire emanates from the fact that the Great Jamahiriyah is one of the most important countries in the region.

The Ukranian president expressed in his message his country's high appreciation (?for) the civilized method in which the Great Jamahiriyah dealt with the crisis between herself and the Western countries.

The president pointed out that dialogue and the neutral (?trial) are the only guarantees to solve this crisis.

Chinese, Korean Envoys Meet Health Official

LD1410093993 Tripoli JANA in English 0825 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli al-Timur [October] 14 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Health and Social Security met with China's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and the Korean Republic's charge d'affaires.

During this meeting the secretary discussed the current cooperation between the two countries.

The secretary also discussed possibilities for developing and expanding this cooperation in the field of the production of medicine, the production of medical equipment and solutions as well as the training of the required personnel to be involved in these fields.

The Chinese ambassador expressed the complete willingness of his country to take part in the running of Libyan medicine production factories in order to minimise the effects of the harsh sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah and the ensuing lack of medicines and equipment parts.

The ambassador also spoke of China's desire to lend support to and develop all other areas of cooperation with the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Korean charge d'afaires also expressed the willingness of his country to develop cooperation in the field of health with the Great Jamahiriyah at a level which would consolidate the friendship and warm relationship between the two friendly nations.

The two sides agreed to draw up a detailed programme for this cooperation and to create technical working teams to continuously study and follow-up the programme.

Mauritania

Algerian 'Fundamentalists' Face Deportation

PM1410102293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Shaykh Bakay report: "Mauritanian Authorities Begin Deporting Algerian Fundamentalists"]

[Excerpt] Nouakchott—Mauritanian security services are conducting a series of interrogations and harassing a number of Algerian nationals suspected of affiliation with Islamic fundamentalist movements, in preparation for expelling them to their country, amid fears that the fundamentalist extremism infection might spread to Mauritania. These measures come after a mysterious attack recently on two French bishops in a church in the capital, Nouakchott.

The authorities are shrouding the operation in complete secrecy. But police buses have been seen transporting a number of non-Mauritanian bearded men to an unknown destination. Scores of Algerians have been seen at police stations.

Sources at Nouakchott airport have said that the airport authorities prevented some 10 Algerians from entering the country and sent them back on the same plane on Wednesday.

AL-HAYAH has learned from private sources that a diplomat at a Maghreb embassy held a protracted meeting with Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ould Mohamed Fal, director of Mauritanian security, in the latter's office two days ago. The sources linked this meeting with the pursuit of the fundamentalist. A leading figure from the outlawed "Islamic Nation Party" [hizb al-ummah al-islami] has told AL-HAYAH that "the Algerian Embassy is working in complete coordination with Mauritanian authorities to deport hundreds of Algerians living in Mauritania." Some sources put the number of Algerian Islamists in this country at about 400.

The leading figure confirmed that most Algerian students in Mauritanian religious institutes are from the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria or from those sympathizing with it. Well-informed sources had told AL-HAYAH that Mauritanian security services received instructions to deport any non-Mauritanian people suspected of belonging to fundamentalist movements. It seems that the authorities want to avoid provoking a clamor over the issue—which has caused the security services to deal with it cautiously and say that the measures are designed to ascertain the legitimacy of these people's residence. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Minister: Dialogue With U.S. Under Way

EA1310132393 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Oct (SUNA)—While participating in the UN General Assembly meetings in New York recently, Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his assistant for African affairs. Abu-Salih, who returned to the country at dawn on 12 October, said at the Foreign Ministry's weekly forum on 12 October that his meeting with the American secretary of state and his assistant was the beginning of dialogue between the two countries and that the meeting had afforded him the opportunity to put Sudan's point of view forward to the U.S. Administration. He said he (?demonstrated) Sudan's conviction [words indistinct] in the continuation of earnest dialogue to arrive at a healthy bilateral (?relationship). He added that they [words indistinct] to the two American officials what Sudan mentioned and what was mentioned by large groups in various states, in addition to the testimony of former President Jimmy Carter. He added that all this was evidence that would make an evaluation and a sound understanding of the course of events in Sudan possible.

Al-Bashir on Upcoming Anniversary, Somalia Situation

EA1310163093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, has affirmed the revolution's goal of achieving peace as a strategic aim. He said: We are endeavoring to achieve this through international and external initiatives, particularly the initiative from the Horn of Africa states—and that of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

In his meeting today with media leaders, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said that on 4 November the country would celebrate the fourth anniversary of the formation of the People's Defense Forces [PDF]. He stressed that the PDF had become a school where the Sudanese citizen's mind can be remolded and his religious consciousness enhanced. He said the PDF embraces all social sectors, without isolating any group.

Speaking on developments in Somalia, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said Sudan welcomed the trend towards a political solution to the crisis which involved the Somalis. He stressed the need for international forces to create an atmosphere conducive to peace there, adding that Sudan was making intensive efforts through the African security committee toward solving the problem. Lt. Gen. 'Umar said Sudan was keen to achieve a Somali reconciliation and a return of security and stability in Somalia.

Rebels Plan National Convention in 'Liberated Zone'

NC1410141793 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, Oct 14 (AFP)—Sudan's rebel People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and its political wing, the Liberation Movement, plan to stage their first national convention in a decade in a "liberated zone" of south Sudan, SPLA official Majok Ayom disclosed here Thursday [14 October].

He said the exact date of the two-week gathering could not be given yet for security reasons, but he expected it to be held very soon.

More than 800 delegates were to attend, representing fighting forces on the ground and civilians from the regions concerned, said Ayom, who is SPLA representative in the Middle East.

He said the movement's manifesto would be revised. As it stands, it talks of freeing the whole country and making it a secular and democratic state.

But in the past two years, the SPLA has been turning towards the idea of a confederation between the predominantly Arab Moslem north and the largely African

Christian/animist south. It argued for that option at last June's abortive peace talks with the ruling military junta hosted by Nigeria.

Ayom said the movement's own internal splits would be examined with a view to bringing dissidents back into the mainstream. Factions headed by Riak Mashar and Lam Akol broke away in 1991, complaining about "dictatorship" by SPLA chief John Garang.

Under pressure from his own guerrillas, Mashar has lately given signs of wanting to heal the breach. Ayom said ways to make the movement more democratic would be discussed.

The SPLA, with an estimated 55,000 men under arms, has suffered major reverses at the hands of government troops since early last year, but still holds vast tracts of southern Sudan. Since it began fighting in 1983, at least 500,000 people have died, according to aid agencies. More than three million people—12 percent of Sudan's population—have become displaced persons, and more than 700,000 in the war zones depend on food aid from outside to survive, according to U.N. figures.

Trade Union Group Denies Reports of Arrested Leaders

EA1310192093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] The General Federation of Sudanese Trade Unions [GFSTU] stressed that biased rumors being disseminated by the Western mass media, which have reported the detention of trade union leaders, are part of what Sudan is being subjected to—namely attempts to damage its integrated cultural path. The GFSTU replied to a cable inquiring about the detention of Sudanese trade union leaders—from the secretary-general and members of the secretariat of the ICATU—by saying that the GFSTU affirmed it was performing effectively, by freely and responsibly constructively criticizing failures which affect the implementation of policy. It affirmed that it does this under the unique trade union law guaranteed for it and the good climate provided by the National Salvation Revolution.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Comments on Qatar Dispute, Gulf Issues

*PM1410095693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
10 Oct 93 p 6*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] What is new in the crisis between Bahrain and Qatar?

[Al Khalifah] The State of Bahrain's position on the border demarcation and regional questions between the State of Bahrain and the State of Qatar is summed up in that the State of Bahrain continues to adopt the position it announced in the past, urging that all disputed matters between the two states should be referred to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] through a special agreement between them, in order to put this issue on the right track.

[Dirgham] Is there any mediation to solve the crisis before referring it to the ICJ?

[Al Khalifah] We hope the issue will be resolved either by brotherly means if possible or through the internationally recognized method.

[Dirgham] When do you want to refer the question to the ICJ?

[Al Khalifah] There is now a unilateral request by Qatar (to refer the issue to the ICJ). In February, the court will determine the suitability of the arbitration, because Bahrain does not agree to the court's authority except through a special agreement, as I said earlier. If there is a special agreement between the two parties, the court will be accepted as an authority for arbitration. If there is no special agreement (between Bahrain and Qatar), Bahrain will not accept the Court's jurisdiction and authority.

[Dirgham] What would the next step be?

[Al Khalifah] To arrange a special agreement, as the Court cannot listen to the two states without an agreement between them. There is currently a unilateral request. The court is just looking into this request, not the dispute between Bahrain and Qatar.

[Dirgham] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] began as an economic grouping, then took a security direction in certain circumstances. Is the council still coherent two years after the Gulf war, and what are its priorities at the present stage?

[Al Khalifah] The GCC is the most important political and cultural achievement in the Gulf region. It has moved in several directions to strengthen the ties among these states in the economic and defense spheres. But it is at present in a phase of consideration; recent meetings have not produced results like those produced in past years, and the movement has become slow. Thus we hope the upcoming summit meeting, which will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will push the cooperation march forward, especially with regard to defense and the defense umbrella, so that this umbrella will be coherent among these states. This umbrella is a message to those who want good—and those who want something other than good for some Gulf states. This defense umbrella can only be achieved through everyone's cooperation.

Second, we hope to link the economies of these states under the unified economic agreement, so that the interests of the region's peoples will enter the 21st century with a unified economy. These are the two most important pillars designed to maintain the GCC as a strong entity capable of growth.

[Dirgham] You mentioned the unified defense umbrella. Are there disagreements among GCC states as a result of some states' reluctance to join this umbrella?

[Al Khalifah] Military understanding is not an easy thing among all world states. But in view of the Gulf states' position and needs, it becomes an urgent matter. So I believe that speeding up the establishment of this kind of cooperation would serve security and stability in the region for many years.

Economic cooperation and its consolidation, alongside the development of defense cooperation, is the most important challenge facing the region's future.

[Dirgham] There is a group of bilateral security agreements between, for example, Bahrain and the United States and Kuwait and the United States. How will these agreements fit in with the unified defense umbrella?

[Al Khalifah] The defense security cooperation signed between the United States and these states is part of the cooperation of the region's states with the major states, first and foremost the United States. It is cooperation with states outside the region. We want cooperation among the region's states to be firmer, stronger, and more impregnable. However, this does not prevent cooperation with friendly states. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] What are you doing to implement the Damascus declaration?

[Al Khalifah] A meeting will be held in Cairo in November to coordinate to put the Arab order in its correct context and in order for cooperation among these states to become a living example of Arab cooperation.

[Dirgham] How will you assure others among the Arabs and also Iran?

[Al Khalifah] We tell Iran that our only objective is to establish good relations with it and that any Arab cooperation is not a confrontation with any other state, nor is it aimed against anyone. Self-defense is aimed against no one. There is a difference between a provocative and hostile action and a coordinated defense action.

[Dirgham] The United States is adopting a policy of warning and cautioning Iran, and some U.S. Administration leaders are calling for isolating it internationally and regionally. Do you agree with this policy, or do you have a different view which prefers dialogue to isolation?

[Al-Khalifah] Iran with regard to us is not the same as Iran with regard to the United States. Iran is our neighbor and we deal with it on that basis. Our relations with the Islamic Republic are developed, and our dialogue with it is continuing. Without doubt dialogue is the best means. When dialogue continues between two parties, a common understanding can be reached. I believe that even the United States wants to hold a dialogue with Iran to formulate common concepts.

With regard to our relations—that is the Gulf states—with Iran, I believe that Iran is an important state in the region with which we should deal on the basis of foundations we announced in the GCC states, based on mutual respect and noninterference in the other states' internal affairs.

[Dirgham] A U.S. official said that discussions during the meeting of the GCC states' foreign ministers with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher broached the issue of "containing" the threat coming from both Iran and Iraq. What happened at the meeting?

[Al Khalifah] What happened at the meeting is that we reviewed current conditions in the Gulf region and spoke about the special relations between the Gulf states and the United States. We also reviewed the situation with regard to Iraq. The position was that Iraq must comply with UN resolutions, and that when it implements them, there will be no boycott or restrictions on Iraq.

[Dirgham] What did you sense from Secretary Christopher as regards the policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran? Does it still stand?

[Al Khalifah] We of the Gulf states have our own view, namely that we are on one territory and in one region. Whereas the U.S. view is strategic, international. I hope the two views will not be linked.

[Dirgham] And is there agreement among the views of all the GCC states in this connection? I mean that, for example, Kuwait wants to reinforce the dialogue with Iran to isolate Iraq. Is this the GCC's position?

[Al Khalifah] We of the GCC are pursuing a clear policy, namely that we want good relations with Iran based on mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and good-neighborliness. Comments were made here and there by an official in a certain country; it is merely an interpretation.

[Dirgham] Is the crisis between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over the three islands [Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa] still threatening Iran's relations with the Gulf states?

[Al Khalifah] This issue should be resolved between the two states. Dialogue is the best means to resolve the dispute. The GCC states emphasized the UAE's right to sovereignty over these islands and welcomed a continued dialogue with Iran. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] The United States is putting pressure on the Arab parties, including the Gulf states, to end the Arab boycott of Israel. What is your position on this question?

[Al Khalifah] The boycott is not a Gulf issue at all.

[Dirgham] Why?

[Al Khalifah] Because it is an issue which concerns the Arab League, the Arab states, and all the Arabs. The Arabs complied with it and set up a boycott office. So if a decision is to be made, it should be an Arab decision. This issue has not yet be included on the Arab League's agenda. When it is raised, we will discuss it. What I want to say is that we should differentiate between the GCC and the Arab world with regard to the boycott issue. The boycott is a major issue which exists in the Arab League. When the time comes, it will be discussed in order to take the right decision. And for your information, there are states which did not implement the boycott in the first place. But we are committed to the Arab position. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Where do the Gulf states fit into U.S. strategic priorities? In the framework of fundamental interests, vital interests, or partnership in interests?

[Al Khalifah] In all three frameworks. The oil issue is a fundamental issue in the world. And our region has the largest oil reserve. The Gulf region is among U.S. strategic priorities because of U.S. economic ties with this region.

[Dirgham] And the security aspect?

[Al Khalifah] Security cooperation has proved that it serves the region's interests and stability. It is joint cooperation which is beneficial to both sides.

[Dirgham] The United States believes fundamentalism poses a threat to its interests. Do you believe that fundamentalism poses a threat to Gulf interests just as it poses a threat to U.S. interests?

[Al Khalifah] That issue is exaggerated. It differs from one country to another and from one social and economic situation to another. I believe that the fundamentalist tide has no effect in the Gulf region. I am not saying that no religious or stern tendency exists in the region. But I say that there is no cause for concern in relation to this question at all. As for the other regions, conditions and circumstances are different, and I hope we will not generalize on this matter.

Heir Apparent Receives Jordanian Envoy, Letter

JN0910171693 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Manama, 9 Oct (PETRA)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini heir apparent, has received a letter from His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Dr. Shakir 'Arabiyat, the Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain, delivered the letter when His Highness Shaykh Hamad received him at noon today.

During the meeting, they reviewed the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries, Arab relations in general, and the accelerating developments of the Middle East peace process.

Kuwait

Interior Minister Warns Iraq To Stop Border Attacks

LD1310133493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1207 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 13 Oct (KUNA)—Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah has emphasized that the Iraqi regime's consecutive attacks on Kuwaiti border posts will be met in kind, pointing out that "there are instructions to respond with two bullets for each Iraqi bullet."

In a meeting with members of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association yesterday, the minister pointed out that the Iraqi regime, since its defeat, has been carrying out subversive acts with the aim of destabilizing the confidence and bases in the country, especially in the area stretching from al-'Abdali to Umm al-Qasr, where the fourth wall project is still to be completed. [passage omitted]

Commenting on Talha prison, the minister said various quarters exploit rumors about the prison to distort Kuwait's reputation and accuse it of not respecting human rights. He added that invited human rights organizations visited the prison and proved that whatever was rumored about the prison was false and aimed at distorting the reputation of the State of Kuwait.

Talks With Gambian President Held 12 Oct

LD1210140593 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] His Excellency President Dawda Kairaba Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia, at 1000 this morning visited his highness the amir of the country at al-Bayan Palace where official talks between them were held.

Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of amiri court affairs, said the talks concentrated on the development of bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and issues of common interest. A cordial atmosphere prevailed in the talks, which were marked by understanding and the spirit of friendship.

Jawara, Delegation Depart

LD1310104093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1002 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 13 Oct (KUNA)—Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia, and an accompanying delegation, left here today at the end of their official four-day visit to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

U.S.-Kuwaiti 'Eager Sentry' Maneuvers Begin

LD1210153893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1149 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Oct (KUNA)—The joint Kuwaiti-American naval maneuvers code-named "Eager Sentry" today started here in the area northeast of Kubbar Island.

The maneuver, which includes the use of live ammunition, will last for two-and-a-half hours. [passage omitted]

Oman

Foreign Minister, Butrus-Ghali Discuss Somali Crisis

JN1210160493 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has received a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, conveyed the message during a meeting with Dr. Butrus-Ghali in New York last night.

His excellency the state minister told an OMANI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York that the meeting dealt with the current crisis in Somalia, expressing hope that the Somali crisis will find a peaceful solution.

The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs is taking part in the 48th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Sultanate's UN mission gave a reception to honor the states that which supported the Sultanate's efforts to get a nonpermanent Security Council seat. His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and His Excellency Ambassador Salim-Bin Muhammad, the Sultanate's permanent UN delegate in New York, were on hand to receive the guests.

Saudi Arabia

Kabul Radio Reports Afghan President's Visit, Talks

LD1310220193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] [Words indistinct] President Rabbani arrived in Mecca from Medina yesterday morning to perform the minor pilgrimage. On his arrival in Mecca, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani was received by the governor and officials of the province.

[Words indistinct] after performing the minor pilgrimage, the esteemed president left Mecca and arrived in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, where he was received by Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds: The aircraft carrying esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and the accompanying delegation landed at Jeddah airport at about 1600 on Monday. At Jeddah airport, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and the accompanying delegation were received by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of defense, and a number of senior officials. After arriving in Jeddah, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and his delegation accompanied King Fahd to Motamarat Palace for a meeting.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds: The exceptional reception of esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation by the authorities of Saudi Arabia and especially by the king and other senior officials is a demonstration of the fraternal relations between the people and governments of the two fraternal countries and of the good intentions of Saudi Arabia toward Afghanistan which have not only led to the expansion and consolidation of fraternal relations but also have reassured us that Saudi Arabia will participate in the reconstruction of our country more than any other country, just as it cooperated with us during the 14 years of our people's sacred jehad against the aggressor and occupying army of Russia.

[Riyadh SPA in English at 1915 GMT on 13 October transmits a Jeddah-datelined report which states: "Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has expressed deep appreciation for the pioneering role played by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to support Afghanistan and the cause of the Afghan people.

["In a statement to the press, Rabbani stressed that the Saudi monarch had played a major part in supporting Afghan jihad (holy struggle) and caring for Afghan mojahedin. He also cited the monarch's efforts to reconciliate warring Afghan factions and reaching a memorable peace agreement between them.

["Rabbani also expressed thanks and appreciation to King Fahd for all the assistance extended to the State of Afghanistan and confirmed that all Afghan people appreciate them as well.

["He also praised royal decrees to establish the Shura Council and the provinces system and stressed that they reflect King Fahd's care for his citizens.

["The Afghan leader lauded the historic expansions of the two holy mosques."]

Crown Prince Visits Rabbani in Hospital

LD1310190293 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] This afternoon His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, visited His Excellency President Borhanoddin Rabbani of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, who is having a medical check-up at the military hospital in Riyadh.

Friendly talks on bilateral relations were held during the meeting. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah was reassured about the Afghan president's health and wished him a speedy recovery. [passage omitted]

Saddam Urges Turkey To 'Step Up' Effort To Lift Embargo

NC1410102493 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 11 Oct 93 p 16

[Report by Soner Gurel and Bulent Hicyilmaz: "Saddam Husayn's Message to Ankara"]

[Text] Baghdad—President Saddam Husayn has claimed that the Kurdish parliament in north Iraq was established because of the pressure on the region by the United States, Britain, and France and argued that his country can't recognize such an institution. Saddam Husayn urged Turkey to step up its initiatives to convince the UN organization to lift its embargo on Iraq. He said: "That is how a friendly country should act."

Saddam Husayn received former Internal Affairs Minister Ismet Sezgin, who is in Baghdad to deliver President Suleyman Demirel's message to Iraq. Saddam received him after a delay of two days. Their meeting, which lasted three and a half hours, focused on the Kurdish problem. Sezgin said: "My visit to Iraq, which is a friendly and fraternal country, has been very favorable. I will brief President Demirel, Prime Minister Ciller, and other officials in detail on my talks in Baghdad."

Saddam reportedly adopted a firm approach to the Kurdish problem. He said the issue also concerns Turkey, Syria, and Iran and suggested that the four countries draw up a joint policy on the problem. Sezgin asserted that Saddam Husayn told him he will not allow an independent Kurdish State to be established in the region. Sezgin also asserted that they discussed the acts of terrorism committed by the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] in Turkey and stressed that Saddam Husayn expressed the view that terrorist incidents intensified in Turkey after Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, emerged on the scene. He also claimed that the two Kurdish leaders control the PKK's terrorist activities.

'International' Desire To Lift Blockade Stressed

JN1010210893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Commentary by Raysan Matar, from the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] Brother listeners: The delegations which visited Iraq represented political parties and prominent personalities from various countries of the world. During their visits, they acquainted themselves with the difficult conditions facing the mujahid Iraqi people under the burden of the unjust blockade, which was imposed on it as a result of pressures the United States and its allies exercised in conflict with the UN Charter and the international law. These delegations and prominent personalities explained the huge economic losses sustained by the nations of the world as a result of the unjust blockade.

The world countries' suffering from these economic circumstances has prompted nations, political parties, and prominent personalities to demand that the unjust blockade on Iraq be lifted. This noble call has reached high-ranking officials, who clearly explained that their countries suffered losses as a result of the blockade. The Turkish prime minister was more daring than others when she said: We will not await a Security Council decision to lift the blockade because we have lost much as a result of that blockade.

The Turkish INTERSTAR station aired a report on the economic situation in southeastern Anatolia. The station said that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq has paralyzed the economic life and aggravated the security situation in the area. The station added that large numbers of Turkish citizens closed their shops, which totally depended on trading with Iraq, and that hundreds of truck drivers also stopped work as a result of the blockade and are suffering from a huge economic crisis.

For these reasons, the visit to Iraq by Ismet Sezgin, former Turkish interior minister, deputy leader of the ruling True Path Party, and member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, gains a special significance regarding Iraqi-Turkish relations. He announced that Turkey and Iraq maintain joint historic relations, in addition to ties of good neighborliness and religions. The relations, he added, include economic ties and a fruitful cooperation in all areas. The minister also said: We in Turkey are eager to maintain these relations between our two countries. We will continue our efforts to promote and strengthen them. Turkey is concerned about Iraq's safety, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

Asked about the continued blockade on Iraq, Ismet Sezgin said: The continuation of the blockade no longer has any justification. The international community must show a full understanding of Iraq's legitimate demands and desires and enable Iraq to play its national and honorable role in the international community a soon as possible.

The international community's call for lifting the blockade on Iraq has become a hot political topic in all countries, including the states of aggression themselves. If the United States and its allies continue to insist on maintaining the blockade, they will lose much, not only before their peoples, but also before the nations of the world. The mujahid Iraqi people have sworn that they will challenge the forces of evil and aggression through jihad, steadfastness, construction, and rallying around their courageous leader, President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him to serve the Arab nation, the Islamic nation, and humanity.

Discharge Ordered for Conscripts at End of Service

JN1310173693 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 11 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] AL-QADISIYAH has learned that President leader Saddam Husayn has ordered that all conscripts be discharged as soon as they finish compulsory military service. According to the president leader's order, the fighter defense minister will set dates for successively discharging these conscripts.

A responsible source in the Ministry of Defense has stated the following:

Pursuant to the instructions of the president leader, may God watch over him, regarding the discharge of conscripts and reservists and not extending the duration of their service; and as a reminder to our announcements on discharging personnel born in 1967, 1968, 1969—who were discharged on 14 July 1992, 6 January 1993, and 14 July 1994 respectively—the conscripts born in 1970 will be discharged on 6 January 1994. Those born in 1971 will be discharged on 28 April 1994 on the birthday anniversary of the president leader, may God preserve him. The conscripts born in 1972, who had no absences or who did not fail to join their military units, will be discharged on 17 July 1994.

Campaign Targets Improved Public Service in al-Najaf

JN1010160393 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 10, INA—Al-Najaf Province has recently become a site of active development drive to improve and implement a number of service projects to help raise the level of services rendered to the public.

The campaign covered work to pave a large number of main and sub-roads, organise squares, play grounds and public gardens, install water complexes, repair and maintain water projects and extend and install pipe networks for rain and waste-water discharge and treatment, al-Najaf Mayor Karim Hasan Rida said.

He added that campaign also covered work to improve telephone and electric services and health and recreational facilities, noting that al-Qadisiyah, al-Haydariyah and al-Mishkhab districts of the province has witnessed a wide-scale campaign to urbanize and improve public service projects as part of a nation-wide drive to urbanize rural areas.

Mr Rida went on to say that work is currently in progress to improve and urbanize al-Abbasiyah district, noting that the work is shouldered by companies of the Ministry of Oil under direct supervision of Mr Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti the adviser at the Presidency Office.

Over the past eight months, the staff of the province's Municipal Services Department have implemented some 100 service projects included paving main and sub-roads, reorganising squares, sidewalks, the city entrances and recreational ground, parks and gardens said the mayor.

The staff have so far paved some 50-kilometre long of main and sub-roads of al-Askari, Saddam, al-Surtah, al-Hannanah, al-Jam'iyah, al-Wafa' and al-Ansar residential quarters and planted 79,000 saplings, said Mr Rida.

As regards water and waste-water treatment projects, the mayor said the staff of Municipal Services Department have so far implemented and installed three water complexes of some 250,000 gallons per day each and improve and extend new waste-water treatment network of a total length of some four kilometres for al-Milad, al-Nasr, and al-Jam'iyah residential quarters.

The staff have, moreover, maintained the existing water complexes and projects and implement and install a new water network for al-Askari quarter, said the mayor, adding that the staff have also managed to raise the capacity of al-Haydariyah water project of al-Haydariyah district to help supply people of the nearby districts with potable water.

Furthermore, teams of Water and Sewerage Department have maintained and repaired some 38 out-of-order and damaged machinery and equipment to be used in implementing water and waste-water treatment projects, said the mayor.

In the meantime, staff of Awqaf (Endowments) Department of the province have recently completed renovation and reconstruction work on Imam Zayn al-'Abidin holy shrine in al-Najaf city.

They have also completed work on the new gates of al-Kufah mosque in al-Kufah district at a cost of ID [Iraqi dinar] five million, said Mr Rida.

Likewise, the staff completed work to refurnish Imam 'Ali holy shrine, said the mayor, noting that the shrine has suffered heavy damage during acts of terrorism that swept the country few days after the ceasefire in the war.

They also completed work to reconstruct a rest house adjacent to Imam 'Ali holy shrine at a cost of ID 1,750,000.

Meanwhile, staff of the province's Electricity Department have implemented and installed six electric power network to help supply al-Jeriwiya [name as received] village at the out-skirts of al-Najaf city and a number of residential quarters with electricity.

They have also installed some 12 power transformers of 630 kv each alongside al-Qadisiyah River in al-Manathrah district, said the mayor, adding that the staff have supplied some 231 agricultural pumps with electricity.

Mr Rida went to say that staff of the companies of the ministries of oil, industry and minerals and housing and construction have recently maintained and renovated 160 primary, secondary and intermediate schools in the province.

Meanwhile, staff of Telecommunications and Post Department have installed two modern telephone exchanges of 80 and 100 lines in al-Qadisiyah and al-Mishkhab districts and improved microwave network, the mayor concluded.

Details of Police Redeployment Plans Reported

TA1210194793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] The Israel Police has completed the staff work concerning its deployment in the autonomy areas. Police Commissioner Rafi Peled submitted the recommendations drafted by a steering team to the prime minister and the police minister for their approval. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov is in the studio with more details:

According to the new deployment, the Gaza District headquarters will be relocated to Kibbutz Nahal 'Oz, and there will be a police station in the Qatif Bloc. There will be four border crossings from the autonomy areas across the Green Line: at the Erez checkpoint, as well as at Nahal 'Oz, Kissufim, and Sufa. A wall or security fence will be built around the Gaza Strip.

The headquarters of the Judaea and Samaria Districts, currently located in Bethlehem and Nabulus, will be transferred to Ma'ale Adumim and Ari'el. All the districts will be subordinate to a supreme operational command which will be in charge of relations with the Palestinian police force. Police stations currently operating in Arab locations will be relocated to civilian Israeli settlements. The Israel Police has drafted a plan to add thousands of policemen to the force. Commissioner Peled pointed out that numerous details remain unclear which require legal examination.

IDF Gunfire Wounds Two in Gaza; Strike Held

TA1310162893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] A border policeman was slightly wounded in the hand by stones thrown at a vehicle traveling near the al-'Arrub refugee camp in the Hebron District. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the wounded policeman was treated in a nearby military clinic and later discharged. Our correspondent adds that a short time ago, a shock grenade was hurled at a bus transporting soldiers in the Luban al-Sharqiyah area on the Ramallah-Nabulus road, but there were no injuries, and no damage was caused.

Earlier it was reported that two residents of al-Zuwaydah in the Gaza Strip were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire. The incident occurred after a riot erupted and local residents hurled stones and metal bars at an IDF patrol. One of the wounded men suffered a moderate chest injury. The other was slightly wounded in the leg.

Our correspondent notes that today there was a full commercial strike in the Gaza Strip to protest the Israel-PLO agreement. In the West Bank there was also a full commercial strike, except for Hebron, where the strike was partial, and Jericho, where there was no strike at all.

North-Rhine Westphalia Premier Meets Peres

LD1210221393 Hamburg DPA in German 1648 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Jerusalem, 12 Oct (DPA)—On the second day of his visit to Israel, Johannes Rau, the prime minister of the German federal state of North-Rhine Westphalia, met Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Jerusalem today. Peres informed the SPD [Social Democratic Party] politician about the latest developments in the peace process.

According to participants in the meeting, Peres stressed above all the importance of economic development for stability in the region. The expansion of desert areas needed to be slowed down, tourism needed to be promoted, and above all, unemployment needed to be fought. Germany could play an important part in this.

Rau promised his Israeli host that he would promote investment in Israel and in the occupied territories. He emphasized that the considerable economic support provided by his federal state [North-Rhine Westphalia] had always sought to support the coexistence of Israelis and Palestinians. Recent developments confirmed that this had been the right policy.

King Denies Meeting Rabin, Urges Comprehensive Peace

JN1310202093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that peace between the Arabs and Israel must be comprehensive and just concerning all aspects of the conflict, pointing out that a major step has been achieved in this direction to address the root cause of the conflict; namely, the Arab Palestinian dimension.

His majesty stressed the need for continued Arab efforts to make peace for the two remaining sisters, Syria and Lebanon. His majesty said: We are all concerned about supporting peace efforts. It seems that the Israeli side is now convinced that the question will not be resolved except by acknowledging Palestinian rights and leadership and dealing with it. We have sought and worked for this since 1974. It is natural that such meetings should take place. The Palestinian-Israeli meeting was held in the United States publicly and in broad daylight, so why should this meeting not take place on the other side.

In this context, his majesty denied reports about a secret meeting held recently between his majesty and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in 'Aqaba, pointing out that both parties have denied these reports.

In an interview with the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR published today, his majesty said: Normalizing Arab-Israeli ties, establishing mutual relations, and opening embassies will take some time and will be within the context of a comprehensive solution. His majesty affirmed that for peace to be established in the region the territory must be restored to its owners and there must be development to meet the needs of the peoples of the region so peace can have a meaning.

His majesty noted that the problem of water is a pressing problem for the states of the region and should be addressed within the context of a real peace. He expressed hope that peace will be made quickly with Syria and Lebanon in order to address such issues.

On a plan linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea, his majesty said such plans are put forward to desalinate sea water or to generate electricity. However, all these plans will be discussed within the context of a comprehensive peace.

His majesty also touched on the domestic situation in Jordan, pointing out that Jordan has not yet overcome the effects of the Gulf crisis and that its major problem is foreign debt.

His Majesty King Husayn said Jordan was heading toward the achievement of democracy in accordance with political pluralism, national consensus, and respect for human rights.

On the question of Palestinian refugees, his majesty asserted that their right to return to Palestine or get compensation is clear. He said Jordan cannot accommodate more Palestinian refugees from any other country. However, it shall remain a homeland for the Palestinians who resided in it and they will have the right to continue to be Jordanian citizens or to return. They should have the right to receive compensation if they stay in Jordan.

On the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees, his majesty said the form of these committees must change as a result of the new situation, and their work mechanism should also change. He called for a new mechanism for cooperation between the two sides, and also within the Arab context, to work confidently, frankly, and clearly to achieve the desired peace.

Answering a question about whether the Jordanian citizens of Palestinian origin have the right to have a Palestinian passport in addition to their Jordanian passport in the future, his majesty said: This question has not been studied yet. However, it might be accepted, since Jordan allows its citizens to bear more than one nationality.

On setting up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation in the future, his majesty welcomed the idea, explaining that for any unionist idea to succeed, it should be launched from bottom to top and the element of confidence and will should be there. Therefore, when our kinsfolk achieve their full right to self-determination on their national soil in Palestine, this will be followed by a discussion of ensuring the link between the two peoples, in which we take pride.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need for a frank Arab dialogue to address all current Arab issues, pointing to his call to hold an Arab summit. He expressed hope for improving relations between Jordan and the Gulf states, saying: We have been the closest people to the Gulf throughout our life and we have always been eager to maintain these relations.

On Jordanian-Egyptian relations, his majesty said these relations experienced a summer cloud which was overcome, noting his contacts with His Excellency President Husni Mubarak of Egypt. His majesty said he will meet with President Mubarak soon.

Further on King's AL-MUSAWWAR Interview

NC1410071593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Jordanian monarch King Husayn has said he hopes the Arab nation will close its ranks to confront all the dangers and challenges.

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to appear in its 15 October issue, King Husayn affirmed his country's support for the PLO and respect for the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking process.

The Jordanian monarch described the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as a brave and courageous step toward making the Palestinian people bear their own responsibilities. He said his country will support the Palestinian people to enable them to realize their hopes.

King Husayn said the cloud that loomed over Jordanian-Egyptian relations during the Gulf war has dissipated. The king added: We will meet, here or there, as we did.

King Husayn said Jordan has no reservations about the Gaza- Jericho agreement, only that it was a surprise. He pointed out that Jordan always supported the rights of the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Jordanian monarch said Jordan's circumstances do not allow it to receive more refugees, stating that the resolutions are clear concerning return or compensation.

King Husayn said his country calls for a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East and wants to see the land returned to its owners.

Asked about the lack of coordination within the Jordanian- Palestinian joint committees, King Husayn called for changing the committees' formation and style to accommodate the new situation.

The Jordanian monarch said a very big step has been taken toward achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, because the issue at the core of the conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli issue, is being addressed.

Asked about the secret meeting he reportedly held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in al-'Aqabah, King Husayn said both sides denied the news.

On the economic difficulties faced by Jordan due to the Gulf war, King Husayn said: We have not overcome the crisis, but will do so, God willing. We are now trying to handle the foreign debt issue and obtain the concessions we were promised. The king said Jordan has adhered to its agreements with the World Bank and the parties concerned.

On the project to link the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, King Husayn said the proposal aims to generate electricity, desalinate water, and make better use of the water.

King Husayn Addresses Nation 12 Oct

JN1210201593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Speech by King Husayn to the Jordanian nation from Amman on 12 October—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace and blessings be on the faithful Arab Hashemite prophet. Brother citizens, fellow Jordanians, whatever your origins: Peace be with you and God's mercy and blessings. I send an Arab Islamic Hashemite greeting to you, who all reside in the depth of my conscience, young and old; men, women, and children; and lifelong companions. You are the promise of the great future for whose good I have striven and whose glory I have diligently sought. In the grace of God's bounty to us all, I hold for you love and pride in being part of you and in the mutual confidence that exists with God's grace between me and you. All of you, and we along with you, hold our heads high and bow to none save to God.

I also send a special greeting to the members of the Arab Army and the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, the comrades in arms—our country's shield, arm, sword, protector, and the country's source of confidence and pride; the loyal ones who are trusted with safeguarding its internal security and stability, defending it against the challenges posed by successive crises and at various times. Those are our sons who are weaving the banners of its bright image that represents true military service as well as proper training of the soldiers of the Arab nation. Those are the sons who represent the most sublime images of adherence to military honor, who act as ambassadors for the nation and for Jordan in the international peace-keeping forces wherever they are, who are the pride of their supreme commander in chief and members of the Prophet's Arab Army.

Fellow citizens, beloved Jordanians, whatever your origin: In a matter of days, the country and each of you will be preparing to exercise the right to elect your representatives to the House of Representatives on the basis of one vote for each voter, in order to elect one representative, male or female, in accordance with the Election Law, based on the letter and spirit of the Constitution, which provides equality for all of you and reflects the highest form of legislation for freedoms, rights, and obligations. The parliamentary elections will be held on their appointed and previously announced date with no change at all. The recent great events and serious, important developments have made it imperative for me at this time to engage with you, as is usual, in a shared discussion and debate on whether to have held the elections on the date or to have postponed them to a later but proximate time. This is in the nature of democracy or shura, call it what you will. In its true manifestations, it goes beyond the question of holding elections on time or postponing them on account of urgent or insurmountable circumstances.

Democracy is a continuing fact of life with us and, with God's help, it shall not be interrupted. It is a course we have chosen for ourselves in sharing the responsibility of decision-making and implementation. This is in a climate of adherence to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, as well as the National Charter, which you all participated in formulating through a Royal Commission we set up for the purpose of ensuring a greater measure of cooperation and integration, based on awareness, true resolve, and honor, as well as on democracy along the path of political pluralism. This is Jordanian in origin and character, and belongs to a single, authentic, serious, responsible, and goal-oriented process. It is committed to safeguarding human rights and respecting the individual, who at the same time should respect himself and the rights of others and the laws of his country. Democracy is aimed at enhancing the spirit of dialogue, respecting the opinion of others, and being open to knowledge and learning rather then being self-enclosed, without foregoing any values or principles, without locking ourselves up in a narrow cell whose thick curtains serve only to shut off the avenues of hope and keep out the rays of the sun; without any claim to uniqueness of vision and possession of truth by anyone of us to the exclusion of others; without shutting off ears, eyes, and hearts against the pulsing world and life around us; without severing ties with the rest of the world or with God's other creatures; and without ignoring the efforts going on to establish a new world order, instead of analyzing the circumstances of its growth as well as interacting with it and enriching it through working from within as a service to ourselves and our nation so that it does not become a reality while we have no say or influence on its content and its possible effect on us.

Third, at the same level of importance, the honor attached to our struggle, the sanctity of our location, the strength of unity among the members of our one family—regardless of origin or descent—their equality in rights and obligations in the most critically situated part of the great Arab homeland: all these are real foundations too strong to be tampered with from far or near. He who tampers with these foundations, from far or near, is deemed not to be one of us and will be my foe until the day of judgment. We are here, in a homeland similar to that of the muhajirin and ansar who stood fast by the prophet of God, God's peace and blessings be upon him, and proceeded to carry the great message. In this we should, with God's help, seek to emulate the values of these people for all time. To be sure, we are the closest to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian lands, to the reality of the Palestinian cause since its inception. With God's help, we are the ansar who have risen to the aid of Palestine. On the soil of Palestine, our blood has been shed and has mingled with theirs during our long and common march. We have shared our sustenance together. With determination and will, with tears of pride and the sweat of manhood we have built together and have lived our lives together in good and bad times. It is in this great spirit of brotherhood that the people will exercise, with God's blessing, their role in choosing their new House of Representatives as one family that will send forth the best among them, the most rational and enlightened elite to serve the coming house through exercising its right to vote at the appointed time.

So proceed to fulfill this obligation in an atmosphere of brotherliness, freedom, and absolute integrity without prejudice to the right of those of us of Palestinian origin to choose what he wishes when he is asked to choose between return or compensation or both. Proceed together with God's blessing. On him we depend and on him is my trust, the best to protect, and the best to trust.

As for developments of the recent past in the peace process, the mutual Palestinian-Israeli recognition, the conclusion of the accord on principles, and the start of the period of serious implementation, I repeat my plea to all our Palestinian brethren within the occupied Palestinian territories and in the outside world to unite and cooperate, hold fast together lest your power depart, and to work through the leadership which they have chosen as their sole legitimate representative.

Such things are represented in continuing the vilification of others. That would diminish the democratic process, consecrate ignorance, and take us back to a new pre-Islamic era, dressed in modern clothing. Perhaps what we should resist most of all is the tendency to make quick, emotional, and superficial judgments about others from positions different from theirs and without any responsible or realistic examination of their duties or decisions.

Dear brethren: To those who expressed an opinion on the subject of our parliamentary elections, whether advocating that they be held at their appointed time or that they be postponed, I convey my thanks and appreciation. For I am confident that their opinions have stemmed from motives of watchfulness over the higher interests of Jordan and have grown out of modes of analyses all leading to bolstering the country's progress and renaissance, and out of concern for a democratic dialogue and freedom of opinion. As for me, I acted on God's injunction: And consult them in affairs of moment, then when thou has taken a decision put thy trust in Allah. [Koranic verse]

It is no secret that the picture I see from my position among you is wider and larger than that available to all in terms of totality of view. For 40 years, my concern as a Hashemite entrusted with responsibility toward you has been focused on serving you with honesty and loyalty free of ulterior motives. This concern has been the reason for my existence and the source of my strength and perseverance in shouldering the burdens and difficulties. The decision taken was based on the following main reasons:

First, we are committed to democracy as a course on which there will be no retreat, God willing, that is, for participation in decision-making on a basis of knowledge and shared responsibility.

Second, this is my unwavering pride in the sanctity of the trust which exists between us. With God's grace, it is a shared confidence. On my part, it takes the shape of total trust in your sense of awareness, your courage, and your growing abilities through experience and sharing in responsibility to distinguish between what is useful and what is not, what is good and what is bad, and to recognize that our success transcends the borders of our beloved Jordan. We have set an example for people everywhere. Our failure, God forbid, would let them and us down, quite apart from being a tragic setback befalling you, and me along with you.

As for us Arabs we all made a commitment at the Rabat summit of 1974 to recognize it and to recognize them, as their sole representative, in response to their own desire. We committed ourselves to supporting their leadership and to respecting the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking whatever the future might hold. It was a bond of honor and an unwavering commitment by men of honor, not a seasonal undertaking.

The Islamic countries and most of the other countries of the world recognized Palestine—the cause and people—and their right on their national soil, and the leadership they chose as a legitimate representative. Palestine then took up its seat in several international organizations and international conferences on an equal footing with its Arab sister states. The Palestinian cause has also been the core and essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the beginning. As for the present, at this critical juncture in terms of the facts on the ground, its implications, and expected results, since the Palestinian leadership representing its people has chosen the path of direct dialogue with Israel to deal with the Palestinian cause in all its aspects aiming at the restoration of Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil in accordance with phases based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, we approve of their decision and do not diminish today our commitment of yesterday to support it and the Palestinians and their rights which are not amenable to any disposition but by themselves.

Our fathers and grandfathers have supported them since the Great Arab Revolt and the blood of the Hashemites, Jordanians and Palestinians has mingled across all the stages of their struggle when rights were being defended and duty fulfilled on Palestinian sacred soil. With regard to the past, let us only reap its lessons as we remember missed opportunities and superficial policies governed by emotions and lack of rationality. History, when it is objectively and sincerely written, will have its say for future generations and the Arabs and Palestinians will bear their share of responsibility together.

For this moment, however, and indeed along the whole range of the struggle, no one, in our view, has the right to denigrate the sacrifices and suffering of the Palestinian people and Arab nation, or the sanctity of shed blood, Palestinian and Arab alike.

It is an honor for us here in Jordan, their closest brethren of all, to have lived with them and as part of them, and to have endured, alongside them, oppression, harm, and aggression. At all times, we have been on the forefront of the struggle giving our all to defend the right, dignity, justice and peace.

Dear brethren: Our people on the occupied West Bank, with Jerusalem as [illegible] prize asset, as well as in Gaza, have suffered under the harshest conditions of occupation for 26 years. What excuse is there then to let them down, or refrain from giving them total support, given their legendary intifadah, which has enabled them, through their leadership, to work directly and to assume their responsibility with courage to rescue the people and the right, through contacts and meetings with the Israeli leadership? Our firm position since the Rabat 1974 summit has convinced the Israeli leadership that no one represents the Palestinians except their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. What right does any of us have to criticize the meetings which would not have taken place without the Palestinians' strong adherence to their rights and lands, and readiness to sacrifice their lives to defend them. What it led to was an open and public meeting, which the Palestinians and their leadership had wanted all along, with the leaders of Israel. It led to mutual recognition and the ratification of an accord on principles, as a first step along a long and odious road requiring from all persistent and concentrated action which we have to support and to which we should contribute, and whose continuity we should encourage until its objectives are realized in successive phases.

Is it reasonable or logical in light of the Palestinian, Arab, and international realities, and in light of recognizing such realities—which impose on us all the imperative of continued action to deal with all aspects of this most complex of international conflicts—to imagine that all goals can be achieved and all aspects of the conflict resolved all at once and in a single moment? Does any of us have the right to close all doors in a spirit of negativism which, regrettably, has become all too common, manifested in anger, suspicion, and pessimism, as if the objective is to extinguish the hope of Palestinian women, old people, and children, as well as of Arabs and Israelis, to emerge from the tunnel of darkness and solitude into the dawn of an expected just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, instead of continuing on the road toward an abyss, despite having tried all other alternatives to no avail.

I will simply say to all those who believe that movement can be halted and things can remain as they are, that time and motion never stand still. We either move forward or we move backward. This fact stands clear for all to see.

Looking back at the past, we have attempted with all we can, since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 242 in November 1967, to achieve progress toward the comprehensive implementation of that resolution. Then, in 1972, we announced we were striving to remove the occupation from all the occupied lands in the West Bank, not to regain it for ourselves, but to place it under international auspices to enable the Palestinians, in absolute freedom, to decide on one of three options, one of which we had excluded right from the beginning, which was a return to the original union. This was a recognition of the fact of Palestinian adherence to the Palestinian identity and of Jordanian adherence to the Jordanian identity, despite the close ties between members of our one family. Only two options remained, a federal state or an independent Palestinian state chosen in absolute freedom.

This was also in response to the position of the Israeli leadership, which had refused to acknowledge any sovereign right by Jordan over the occupied West Bank, and which had regarded the union between the two banks, held in trust until the resolution of the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, as Jordanian occupation terminated in 1967.

Unfortunately, this position coincided with an acceptance by many of our Palestinian and Arab brethren of this interpretation and attitude. In addition to the above, we, on our part, called for the need for all Palestinians to come together under one Palestinian umbrella in the West Bank and Gaza once the occupation had come to an end. In other words, Israel had refused to recognize Jordan's right to strive to rescue the West Bank or to represent the Palestinians.

Then, there occurred the war of 1973, which we knew about only when it started. We immediately began to mobilize and make preparations to prevent any encroachment on our territory and to defend it in case of attack. As the military position developed, units of the Arab Legion moved to the Syrian-Israeli front, as a matter of duty and participation in the honor of defending the Arab lands of the sister state of Syria, alongside our brethren and kinsfolk there.

In the aftermath of the war, Security Council Resolution 338 was adopted, requiring negotiations under international auspices to implement Resolution 242 and achieve comprehensive peace. We went to the Geneva Conference, which was soon adjourned.

In the meantime, we demanded a disengagement of forces with the Israelis on the Jordanian front, as a first step, similar to what occurred on the Egyptian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli fronts, from the farthest point in the northern Jordan Valley to the north of the Dead Sea, and an Israeli withdrawal to a depth of 10 km. But this was turned down.

Then the Arab summit of Rabat was held in 1974. After extensive discussions, we responded to the wish of our Palestinian brethren and the entire Arab nation to recognize the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We committed ourselves to supporting it and to cooperating with it, out of a desire to serve the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people in occupied Palestine. We regarded this position as one of national honor to be fulfilled with our utmost capabilities until the occupation had been removed.

On the other hand, the course of Israeli politics underwent a radical shift immediately following the Rabat summit. It began to tell the world that it recognized no other party but Jordan and would not deal with any other party as far as the future and fate of the occupied West Bank were concerned.

For our part, we had honored our direct political responsibilities toward the occupied West Bank until the Rabat summit. We were committed to seeking its rescue and liberation to enable it to determine its own future. Then we adhered to the Rabat resolution with tenacity, sincerity, and honor. This was done through an attempt, more than once, at Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and agreement; the decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank based on the fact that it was an internal Jordanian-Palestinian affair not amenable to being relegated to any other party, and by providing an umbrella to our Palestinian brethren at the Madrid, Moscow, and Washington conferences, enabling them to exercise their right to represent themselves, until the mutual Palestinian-Israeli recognition in Washington on September 13, 1993 and the start of the Palestinian-Israeli march toward peace, for which we wish success, with God's help, in achieving its objectives.

As for us, our position and policies were as clear as the sun. While many thought it was inevitable, we did not fall to our knees, nor did we bow our head except to God. Our position was clear, brave, constructive, responsible, open, and based on principle, for which we are well known to the Arabs, to the states and leaders of the world, to Israel and its successive leaders, and directly experienced by all through every possible means.

We give praise to God that we showed no cowardice where honor and manliness were involved. We left no stone unturned in defense and support of the right of the Palestinians on their national soil. Such was our position. No one may claim that, while we shouldered our responsibilities and until we were relieved of their direct exercise in 1974, we had ceded an inch of Palestinian territory or an iota of the right of its people to their homeland.

We then continued to support Palestine and its people and their rights on their national soil as an act of honor and a duty to be fulfilled until the need for it no longer exists. We also continued to provide assistance in the service of the common good, as well as of peace.

We signed the Jordanian-Israeli agenda 24 hours after the Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Washington, because we had refused to sign it before we saw clear and tangible progress on the Palestinian-Israeli level. We signed the agenda as an expression of our support for the mutual recognition between the Palestinians and the Israelis, for the ratification of their agreement in the document on the declaration of principles and the start of the implementation of their peace plan.

We shall actively proceed now with all that is necessary, first, to lend support to our Palestinian brethren and cooperate with them on carefully studied, planned, and clear bases, so as to protect them and us. We shall also work seriously and resolutely to address the many urgent and important issues which we have, with speed, care, and precision, alongside hope and action to achieve a comprehensive peace which we have long advocated and called for. We shall focus our attention on the individual and on his right to a secure, stable, and promising life. Equally, we shall concentrate on a peace that will give future generations access to generous prospects of which our own generations have been deprived. This will be in defense of right and life.

Turning to Jerusalem, we hope that it will be transformed into a meeting point and a symbol of Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli peace, of peace among the children of Abraham.

As for the holy places of the followers of the three monotheistic religions in the city which God chose to be beloved by them all, we shall herald the only course we can possibly accept. We, Hashemites, have carried a special historic honor through our distinctive connection with holy Jerusalem and through our relationship with it, for it is the destination of Prophet Muhammad's night journey and the resting place of Husayn I. The soil of its al-Aqsa Mosque has been moistened by the blood of my martyred grandfather, founder of the Kingdom, 'Abdallah Bin-al- Husayn, and the soldiers of the prophet's Arab Legion have fought to defend it and welcomed martyrdom in that pursuit. Our men fought in the defense of Jerusalem in the war of 1967, which was imposed on us under unified Arab command in fulfillment of our commitment to the principles of the Arab League and the Charter of Collective Arab Defense Pact. We knew in advance that the results of the war could not be any better than what eventually transpired, because the Arab- Israeli balance of power, according to studies by Arab military personnel, was in Israel's favor. Arab-Israeli parity had been a dream and an objective which our nation did not pursue, as it had resolved at the Cairo summit when a unified command was established. The command's capabilities were soon curtailed and it was denied the material means it had originally sought in order to achieve parity with a target of 18 months after the war was imposed in June 1967.

Those of our soldiers who stayed alive and able to carry arms continued to fight at its walls and gates. They had refused to stop until I was contacted by the then governor of Jerusalem, may he rest in peace, and some of its prominent citizens, urging me to instruct the valiant commander and his soldiers to stop fighting out of concern for Jerusalem and its holy places, because the battle on the larger scale was already decided. The governor and the Jerusalem citizens expressed their deep gratitude and profound appreciation for the stalwart fighters after their legendary valor in fighting on, and defense of, the soil of Jerusalem.

It was only a few months of ceaseless skirmishes before we were forced to fight the al-Karamah battle, which you all know. In that battle, our men showed exceptional courage, preferring death to humiliation. God, the all powerful, awarded them victory.

Such then has been the connection of the Hashemites with Holy Jerusalem. It is a historic bond and a religious legitimacy. The commitment by the sons of Hashim, house of the Prophet of God, may God's blessings and peace be upon him and his family, to Jerusalem is supported by religion, bolstered by martyrdom, and recorded by history. We shall remain faithful to Jerusalem, defending the right of the nation to it. We shall remain concerned for its holy places. The Hashemites, their sons, and their grandsons on this side of the Jordan River shall remain in the forefront of their Jordanian kinsfolk, regardless of their origin, loyal to this covenant to the end of time.

With regard to the Islamic holy places of Jerusalem in particular, our position remains unchanged. We continue to look after them and we are committed to their restoration and to the Jerusalem Awqafs. We did not, nor will we ever, recognize any sovereignty over them, except by almighty God, as indeed with the holy places of all believers in God in this most holy city; this small, but hallowed place which God has willed for great glory, sought by the hearts of all believers who hope that their rights and freedom will be respected and that they can exercise the worship of God in that city, motivated only by the fear of almighty God and the desire for his favor.

This Hashemite leadership hopes for its call to be heard. It keeps the trust as a badge of honor and hopes that it is given real support to that end. It cannot relinquish that trust under any circumstance. It has the honor to invite the Arab and Muslim nations to establish a venerable non-political religious body, representing the five Islamic sects, to look after the affairs of the Muslim holy places. We shall then be honored to give such a body complete and unstinting support in the cause of establishing the unity of our nation so as to be the best of nations evolved for mankind.

We call for an Arab-Muslim dialogue. God has honored the Arabs with carrying the message of faith and his holy book, which was reveled to the faithful Arab prophet, Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, God's blessings and peace be upon him and his family, and promulgated in a correct Arab tongue. At the same time, we call for a responsible and constructive Muslim dialogue with our Christian brothers aimed at unifying their ranks as well in the spirit of the relationship that existed between Muslims and Christians since Caliph 'Umar Ibn- al-Khattab entered Jerusalem. This would then be followed by a comprehensive dialogue among the followers of the three monotheistic religions. Should a formula emerge that would preserve rights and protect the holy places, we will then look into it. At the same time, we will reserve the right to support any formula convincing to us, provided it is acceptable to the nation. Let Jerusalem then be a symbol for peace, the diamond of faith, and the place of prayer for believers in God all over the world.

Brother citizens: As I stand by the just and comprehensive peace in this region and in the entire world, I hope that we will all adopt the same position, since we have chosen to traverse this path together in the largest national congress we have ever held. The formula was presented to that congress, which supported our participation in the peace process. You as I have always known you, are people of honor and magnanimity, whose heads bow only to almighty God. If, with God's help, the hope becomes a reality, then conditions under which the region and its peoples and all of us have lived, will change. Under these conditions, anxiety with regard to all future prospects for the length of our entire lives has prevailed.

We, therefore, beseech God almighty to enable us all to see the dawn of that peace and to have made a considerable contribution to its achievement as well as to the dissemination of its benefits to all believers in God. Indeed, it will be the most precious gift we can give, in case of success, to the coming generations which dream of a decent life where all capabilities are directed toward constructive work under conditions of stability, something for which we have yearned for a long time. This blessed region could become the springboard for a new hope and a positive ray, which our nation will have had a large hand in bringing about. From this hallowed land could emanate to the whole of humanity a unifying torch bringing all the faithful together in the service of right, righteousness, and peace.

Dear brothers: It is time we Arabs forsake all that is bad in our previous practice and in our generally recognized practice of shifting our emotions at great speed between the two extremes of endowing some of our people with great national and Arab sentiment and great heroism, and then easily branding them as the exact opposite with astonishing speed. That comes from a position that falls outside the realm of heavy responsibility or a knowledge of the facts or proper assessment of the circumstances.

It is time for us all to expel from our nation's life this ugly mode of behavior and to ostracize those who practice it. We believe our nation's message, heralding a coming renaissance, is still there and that our efforts to unify the Arabs, close their ranks, and pool their resources is a trust that we should all fulfill in order to ensure our nation's benefit, and its glory and its dignity.

It is imperative to achieve reconciliation. Our Arab brothers know very well that Amman was honored when it was known as the capital of reconciliation and agreement among the Arabs.

Our contemporary Arab history is replete with attempts to establish forms of pan-Arab unitary relationships and other modes of cooperation. We were always there when they happened, never shirking the obligation dictated by our position towards joint Arab defense or in the context of our membership in the Arab League. If most attempts at union or federation have so far been derailed, we believe from experience, that any effort at union should be built from the base upwards with a thorough analysis of realities on the ground and in a climate of freedom where peoples can express their collective will. Should this be achieved, the clouds of darkness and the veils of suspicion and fantasy will be lifted, and the elements of confidence will be installed on a firm and lasting ground.

In this context, we would point to the liberal debate on the possible forms of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, starting with the United Arab Kingdom project, which we suggested in 1972, and moving up to the confederal union.

It is certain that under all circumstances the Jordanian-Palestinian relations will remain strong and distinguished, reflecting the bond of our common brotherhood, struggle, suffering, and hopes.

Let the debate then be linked to the people's will to begin with. Let us then look at the entity which our Palestinian brethren could achieve on their national soil in the wake of the recent agreement, and through our cooperation with them and support for them at all levels.

We would then examine what could be established among the people as more basic rights in life, more responsible freedoms, more participation in the administration of their affairs, and more respect for pluralism in society become available to our brethren. At that point, we could launch any form of unitary project with a free will that could ensure its viability, which could be the beginning of a new and comprehensive pan-Arab project.

Fellow citizens: I find it imperative to revert to our internal affairs. With my usual frankness and clarity, I would say to you that the question of our democratic march is important to us all. We are growing more attached to it as time goes by and more insistent on seeing it through. So be your own allies and mine. Do not let me or yourselves down, thus risking a loss of a model which we would like the Arab nation to regard as a good example to follow. I stand by you, just as I stand by all that is right and by responsibility and life itself. Move forward, I am with you. Next to God, seek resort in precision of choice and integrity of selection. Send the cream of the cream to represent you in the new House of Representatives and choose those who have the fear of God in their hearts in what concerns their homeland and their nation. Select people who have an open and thoughtful mind, who have a sincere and transparent heart, who have a strong will and a live consFience, who are committed to our being one family bent on a single course and a single goal.

In this compassionate democratic climate, which Jordan is enjoying, I urge the few among those who climb the pulpits of Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessing be upon him, and those in positions of responsibility who have in the past tended to engage in matters in which they have no right to engage, whatever scholarship they claim, to fear God in what they say. Any engagement by those who do not understand the sanctity of the pulpit or recognize the trust of responsibility in matters that do not concern them and of which they have no knowledge is a departure from obedience to the commands of almighty God.

Invite all to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious, for thy Lord knoweth best who have strayed from His path and who receive guidance. [Koranic verse]

It is part of the mercy of Allah that thou dost deal gently with them. Wert thou severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about thee. [koranic verse]

I would also like to extend my good advice to them that what has happened so far is enough. Let us leave politics outside mosques, outside the houses of worship. Let us see to it that people inside the houses of God do not hear any language describing or addressing God's creatures which is not fit either for the honor that the acts of preaching and counseling carry, or the sanctity of the houses of God.

May almighty God guide us to obedience of His will. I say this as a loving brother to you all, not only as one honored to be one of the descendants of the prophet's house and lineage, who are above all worldly considerations, but also as one who is not incapable, together with the faithful among God's creatures, of putting an end to what is wrong and sinful, should any persist, from now on, which we hope will not happen.

I am here making specific references and not generalizations. In fact, I thank and have pride in every scholar who enriches Jordan with his scholarship and piety.

To the press and information media, I would render the advice that they should be guided by a search for the truth, a desire to enrich people's minds through useful studies, and support such studies, coupled with openness to the world. I would advise them to set aside flowery language that has no content and to shun irresponsible writing and negativism. They should once and for all refrain from vilifying people here and there, whether Arab or foreign, especially those who are in positions of leadership in this world or heads of state. We have often given advice on this matter and have all suffered much. We have been patient because of our commitment, and respect for, a free press. We now hope that the press will rise to a level of responsibility in the prevailing climate of freedom and not bring upon our family the risk of discord and disarray, and upon the unity of Arab ranks the prospect of delaying its movement toward a new and desirable state.

Again, I say that I am making specific references and not engaging in generalizations. I would also like to refer to the press associated with political parties, to current discussions on the proliferation of parties which hampers movement, and to the necessity of holding fast to the foundation, namely, our national charter which stipulated allegiance in letter and spirit to Jordan and to no other. This envisages us as a beacon radiating to those around us, not the other way round.

We hope that political adolescence and attempts at making light of people's minds and ability to discriminate will become a thing of the past. We say this out of concern for them. We hope that they will take heed for Jordanians in all walks of life and for the rich experience behind them and who are, with God's grace, more aware and more intelligent than they think or expect.

O free Joranians: As for our army, our military justice system, and our security organizations watchful over our country's security and represented by the General Intelligence and Public Security departments, we shall not act leniently toward anybody at all with regard to the recent rumor mongering and vilification to which they have been subjected. We have built them up on a foundation of piety, scientific aptitude and knowledge, as well as of honor, dignity, and high morality. Were it not for them, Jordan would not have enjoyed its current wellbeing, nor would there have democracy and freedom allowing some, so far, to denigrate them or otherwise encroach upon them. All this should stop immediately and it will stop, God willing, in accordance with our laws that should be respected.

Members of these organizations, the Arab Legion, and the Jordanian Armed Forces are more noble, more proud, and more dignified than to be belittled by those who are ignorant or prejudiced of any description. Husayn's concern for his sons in these organizations and for their proper national upbringing and performance is above the malice of those hypocrites and spiteful individuals who like to fish in muddied waters. If in the past we have pardoned those who went astray or engaged in plotting to harm our progress, let no one believe that we did it out of concern for ourselves and for the state organization with regard to those who show the loudest. In the larger issues, for example, we knew beyond any doubt of conspiracies by the accused and their involvement up to their ears. But we forgave them in order to give them an opportunity to repent and rejoin the ranks of law-abiding and responsible citizens.

We know this and they know it. Let them not pass over our kindness in providing a second chance. Let some not exceed their limits counting always on our forgiveness where every act of clemency on our part has been construed by the sick of mind as a victory and encouragement to even greater disorder and tendentious abuse.

Let us then move forward toward the clarity of vision we have planned for the current stage, namely, national concern, democracy, a sense of belonging to the Arab nation, and a Hashemite spirit.

Let justice, righteousness, goodness, and amity be the pillars of this one family. Let us join the battle of civilization in this age through scholarship and awareness. Let us face the challenges of this current phase as our fathers did before us, with patience, steadfastness on our land, and a spirit of discipline and truthfulness. Let us not shrink from claiming our rights, not bend in the face of an impending storm, not abandon the unity of our nation or the blood of our martyrs or the sanctity of our message.

All this as we look to a new Arab dawn whose sun will bestow freedom, democracy, and the respect for human rights. The rising of the sun from the land of Jordan will be an honor for all of us, as it did one morning at Mu'tah and al-Yarmuk, and as the battalions of the Great Arab Revolt emerged from Mecca and spread the promise of the dawn through the sound of horses and the clash of swords until Faysal Ibn-al-Husayn and his forces hoisted its banners over Damascus and Baghdad and 'Abdallah Ibn-al-Husayn planted its flag in the soil of Jerusalem and Amman.

May God keep you and watch over you. He is the guardian of our march and to him all success is referred. Peace be with you and God's mercy and his blessings.

Israeli Request To Use al-'Aqabah Port Rejected

JN1410113093 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p 8

["Exclusive to AKHIR KHABAR"]

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, has said that during the negotiations, Israeli negotiators asked Jordan if Israel could use the port of al-'Aqabah to serve their trade with Asian countries in return for Jordan's use of the port of Haifa in northern Palestine and the port of Ashdod in central Palestine within the framework of exchanging mutual benefits.

Dr. al-'Anani explained that the Jordanian side rejected the Israelis' request because if Jordan wants to use a port on the Mediterranean Sea, it will use the port of Gaza, which will be built in the future.

Delegate Demands Implementation of Resolution 194

JN1410084293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Tunis (Agencies)—Jordan Wednesday demanded that the Palestinian refugees problem should be settled on the basis on U.N. Resolution 194 so that those who have been displaced as a result of the Arab-Israeli wars can determine their own future and become an integral part of the Palestinian society on Palestinian soil.

"In Jordan's view the working groups on refugees emanating from the multilateral phase of the peace process is the proper forum for ensuring the implementation of Resolution 194," Marwan Dudin, Jordan's delegate, told the working group on refugees which opened a meeting in Tunis Tuesday.

"Palestinian refugees who have been living in camps in Jordan since 1948 are afraid that they have been forgotten and that their rights to repatriation or compensation have been ignored," he said.

The source of these fears, Mr. Dudin added, "lies in statements made by Israeli leaders on the question of the refugees and the displaced persons."

Therefore, he said, Jordan calls on the conference and the working group on the refugees to bring to an end "this feeling of pessimism and despair prevailing among the Palestinian refugees and to revive hope and dignity for them."

Stressing this point, Mr. Dudin said that the world community should reassert the refugees' rights based on international laws and U.N. resolutions.

"In fact, such move can give due impetus to the declaration of principles agreed on between the Israelis and Palestinians," and which went into force Wednesday, he added.

In Jordan's view, Mr. Dudin said, the first step to help settle the problem lies in carrying out a family reunion programme. "This first but important step, which would restore hope to the refugees should be followed by others steps on the part of Israel which is responsible for the occupation of Palestinian land over the past four decades.

Overcoming this predicament in an acceptable manner will not only mark a major success for the conference and the working group on refugees but would also ensure further successes for the Middle East peace process, Mr.Dudin said.

Mr. Dudin said Jordan, which has shouldered heavy responsibilities by hosting the Palestinian refugees, is ready to continue this mission until the Palestinian regain the right to self-determination in their own national soil.

With reference to the donor nations' conference held in Washington to discuss ways of contributing to the development of the Middle East, Mr. Dudin said the forum was an important step because the donors pledged to provide assistance for a peaceful future for the Palestinians and the other Arab parties.

But, Mr. Dudin said, the fate of this step would remain much in doubt unless it is translated into practical moves for the benefit of the victim of the long conflict.

Mark Beyron [name as published], the chairman of the working group on refugees, said the three-day meeting would work out some plans to provide health, education and vocational training for refugees mainly in the occupied territories, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

He said the working group, a forum of the U.S.-Russian sponsored Middle East peace talks, would implement the plans over the next 12 to 13 months.

The Canadian chairman of the group also said the peace accord signed by the PLO and Israel in Washington last month will consolidate efforts of the working group which started in Ottawa, Canada, last year.

Official: U.S Commitment 'Keeping Hope Alive' for Peace

PM1310145093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

['Ali al-Ruz report: "Damascus Sees U.S. Administration's 'Seriousness' as Factor for Progress on Syrian and Lebanese Tracks"]

[Excerpts] A high-level Syrian official told AL-HAYAH yesterday that his country is hoping that "progress will take place with regard to putting the peace talks on the road leading to the major aim of the negotiation process." He stressed that the U.S. Administration is "serious" in its commitment to the peace process and that its position "is one of the factors keeping hope alive regarding the possibility of progress taking place on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks."

On Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar''s talks in Washington and his remark that Damascus would not complete the negotiations if progress is not achieved, the Syrian official said that President Bill Clinton "has renewed U.S. commitment to the peace process, which is based on comprehensiveness, justice, and the land-for-peace principle. He will send officials to the region to follow up the negotiations and help the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to make progress."

Asked whether the recent U.S. position is a positive sign, he replied: "We cannot be pessimistic or optimistic in politics. There are daily realities with which we deal and in the light of whose course we determine our positions (...). So far the U.S. Administration is serious and is continuing its pledges."

Have al-Shar''s meetings in Washington dispelled Syria's fear or concern over a decline in the peace process? The Syrian official replied: "What fear and what concern? Have you ever heard a single official in Damascus utter the words fear and concern? Syria wanted peace and is cooperating with all quarters concerned with peace. It is seriously working for it. And had it not been for its hope for progress toward the major aim, that is a just and comprehensive peace, no power would have been able to compel it to continue the talks."

Asked whether the Washington talks produced a new agreement on a date for the 12th round of negotiations, the Syrian official said: "We are awaiting the secretary of state's return. And the U.S. Administration's position committed to the foundations of the U.S. peace initiative in the Middle East is one of the factors keeping hope alive regarding the possibility of progress taking place on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, thus pushing the peace process as a whole forward." [passage omitted]

Asked whether Syria's position on the multilateral negotiations will change, he replied: "Nothing has changed. If there is no peace, how can we discuss the outcome of peace? No sensible person can put the cart before the horse. Syria offered full peace in return for full [Israeli] withdrawal. And Syrian officials announced that Syria is ready for all that results from this equation."

When it was pointed out that some people believe that the move of the Palestinian factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is similar in some aspects to the 1978 Arab move rejecting the Camp David accords, and that the outcome of the present move will be similar to the outcome of the previous move, he replied: "Syria neither supported nor opposed the agreement. It left the matter to the Palestinian Arab people and their institutions to have their say and take the positions they deem right. We mentioned what we believe are negative aspects in the agreement, but we are not going to turn into a tool of suppression against the Palestinian forces opposed to the agreement. Syria did not suppress these organizations even when they criticized Syrian policy and differed with it. All their offices, newspapers, and statements remained in existence."

On the Syrian position, which seems to be "isolated" (with the Lebanese position) in opposition to the agreement, and on the possibility of Syria's being exposed to political isolation in the light of the Arab position supporting the agreement, the Syrian official said: "We do not feel that our position is isolated. Its aim is to defend Arab rights, Arab dignity, and a comprehensive and just peace for all the Arabs. We do not believe that any Arab person who deserves to be called Arab can reject a position defending the Arabs' right to recover their occupied land and usurped rights. It is a big honor for Syria to espouse and defend these values. These values are not isolated in the Arab homeland." [passage omitted]

On the Arab boycott of Israel, the Syrian official stressed that it "resulted from the Israeli aggression and wars against the Arabs. And unless the causes which prompted this boycott are eliminated, it is natural for it to continue. When the causes disappear, the results also disappear, not vice versa. We are still in a state of war with Israel; this state has not been lifted yet."

When it was pointed out that the United States is urging Lebanon to initiate security coordination with Israel in the south, although it already knows that Lebanon cannot take such a decision without coordination with Syria, the Syrian official—interrupting—stressed that Lebanon "is a state which enjoys full sovereignty over its territory and decisionmaking, be it inside or outside the country. And it has a legitimate government which makes the decisions it deems right. And it discussed in Washington an Israeli working paper and submitted a paper covering securing arrangements and other issues. Talks are continuing between the two sides, and the lack of progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track is attributable to Israel's position, not Lebanon's."

AL-BA'TH: Israel-PLO 'Deal' Will Not Bring Peace

NC1410103593 Paris AFP in English 1001 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, Oct 14 (AFP)—The Israel-PLO deal on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories will not bring peace to the Middle East, an official daily Syrian newspaper said Thursday [14 October].

In a front page editorial, AL-BA'TH, the mouthpiece of the ruling party, slammed the deal because it "concerns 400 square kilometres (100 square miles) of occupied Palestinian land" only.

"The agreement ... cannot represent a settlement of the Palestinian problem nor the Middle East crisis. It will not bring peace", the newspaper added.

The agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation was signed September 13 in Washington and came into effect Wednesday. It provides for autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region, in the West Bank.

According to AL-BA'TH, which is run by President Hafiz al-Asad's Ba'th party, the deal "was worked out secretly, outside the legal framework of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington. This agreement is not peace because peace cannot be based on separate deals and partial solutions".

A high-ranking U.S. State Department official, Edward Djerejian, said Tuesday that Syria and Israel were making progress in working out a common declaration of principles.

Syrian participation is believed to be vital for overall peace in the region.

Djerejian stressed however that the two countries still disagree on the key issues of "land, peace and security".

Papers Say 'Arafat-Rabin Agreement Outside Peace Process

JN1410090693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the Middle East peace process and the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement, noting that this agreement is alien to the ongoing peace process, and that it is a departure from the agreed peace process.

AL-BA'TH wonders why the U.S. peace initiative was launched in the first place if the separate agreements concluded outside the confines of the peace process are capable of achieving peace, as they claim. The paper adds that this initiative was agreed upon by the parties engaged in the peace process, and consequently became binding to all of them. Any departure from this initiative is deemed detrimental to this process. Departures tamper with this process and scuttle its objectives, the paper argues.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: No harm would done if we reiterate here that peace in the Middle East is impossible to achieve, maintain, and sustain unless it is just and comprehensive. It must be based on the components agreed upon for the peace process and the peace talks. This peace must be based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-BA'TH indicates that true peace cannot be achieved by the endorsement of separate, partial, and flawed agreements. The achievement of true peace is contingent upon progress on all tracks toward the desired objective of the peace process; namely, a just and comprehensive peace. Any delay in making the necessary moves on all tracks will delay the entire peace process. Consequently, such a delay would torpedo this process and prevent it from reaching its objectives.

AL-BA'TH adds: Anyone who harbors the delusion that suspending or delaying necessary moves on all tracks, or that the adoption of some secondary and insignificant measures under the Gaza-Jericho accord could make the Arabs succumb to Israeli conditions or accept the Tel Aviv rulers' dictates or conceptions, is sadly mistaken. We in Syria are truly and honestly interested in reaching a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and defusing tension in the region. However, to achieve this objective, we are not willing to renounce our claims to territory and rights. Peace in the region is impossible to nurture as long as occupation is maintained. Likewise, it is impossible to maintain peace as long as injustice, oppression, and the usurpation of rights continues. Syria, which has been calling for the establishment of peace for decades, will not renounce any single Arab right, nor will it concede a single inch of its Golan territory. Nor will it, for that matter, accept a single inch of Arab territory remaining under non-Arab sovereignty.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: Unless Arab territories and rights are returned to their owners, any talk of true peace in the Middle East will remain irrelevant. Regardless of the current regional and international balances of power, the peoples' rights to their territory will remain sacred. Nobody is allowed to dispute such rights. Nobody can circumvent or overlook such rights. These delusions, no matter how inflated they may become, can never obscure facts, nullify inalienable rights, or obliterate the rights of nations and peoples to struggle for their freedom, independence, and full sovereignty on their own territories.

In an article published today under the headline "Deception Is Useless," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says Israel has fallen into the habit of using maneuvers and deception to circumvent the essence and principles of the peace process, which is based on the need to implement the relevant UN resolutions and honor the land-for-peace formula.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Having assured itself about Arab support for the agreement it reached with the PLO, given the Arab endorsement of this agreement, and feeling that this agreement has begun to take shape on the ground, Israel has deliberately stepped up its provocative statements, showing immense disregard for the desire to achieve comprehensive peace and denying the Arabs their right to restore all their occupied territories.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Even the areas to be subjected to self-rule under the autonomy accord will not be spared the evils of settlement activities. Peres has unequivocally stated that settlements in the areas to be subjected to self-rule will remain in place, and that the Israeli Army will remain responsible for the security of these settlements, which are impossible to dismantle, as he put it.

AL-THAWRAH says these statements clearly show that, regardless of the media clamor it created to portray the Israeli-Palestinian agreement as a major breakthrough in the interest of peace, Tel Aviv, indeed, remains incapable of convincing anybody of the sincerity of its peace claims. Everybody now has sufficient proof that Tel Aviv continues to adhere to gruesome concepts and ideas that are diametrically opposed to achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel must realize that Syria, without which it is impossible to achieve peace, will accept nothing short of a comprehensive peace that restores Arabs territories and rights in full. Likewise, Israel must realize that procrastination will be to no avail. It will only waste the current peace opportunity and destroy hopes for security and stability in the region.

Israeli Attempt To Replace 'Madrid Formula' Viewed

JN1310172493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Regardless of the results the Gaza-Jericho agreement has produced for its signatories, we can say that the agreement has proved that Israel joined the peace process based on the Madrid formula only to maneuver and to encroach on it. Israel continued its maneuvers for 12 months until it violated that formula and came up with a secret agreement, which is not based on any element of the peace process.

The Madrid formula, which calls for a comprehensive and just peace, clearly conflicts with what was secretly agreed on in Oslo and was considered, in Israel's view, a step toward peace. Israel's concern these days is to reverse the rules of the game in order to replace the Madrid formula, which was based on the concept of comprehensive peace and international legitimacy, with the partial Oslo or Gaza-Jericho peace formula based on the Israeli concept.

In other words, the Israelis want to replace the whole with the part by making Madrid formula a framework void of any meaningful element—a formula which was approved by parties involved in the peace process and by the two sponsors of the process. By having emptied the process of its meaning and its international legitimacy, the current government has finished what was begun by the former Israeli government, which worked to make international participation and the United Nations' sponsorship of the peace process a form without substance.

It is clear that if it achieves what it wants, the Yitzhaq Rabin government will not object to a 12th or a 13th round of talks in Washington to implement the Israeli concept of peace under the cover of the peace process, which will not be more than just a form void of real substance. It is natural for Israel to allege that it is eager to see all the Arab parties involved in these rounds to cover the partial solution and turn progress toward a comprehensive and just peace, as approved by international charters and norms, into a movement toward peace in accordance with the Israeli concept.

It is also natural that while Israel wants to push just and comprehensive peace through the hole of the unilateral deal, or, as it has been said, to push a camel through the eye of a needle, those who are eager to reach true peace, whose frameworks, principles, and bases were defined by the Madrid formula, will never agree to peddle this Israeli game, which may lead to the destruction of peace prospects that the Madrid conference launched.

It is taken for granted that in light of the current U.S. Administration's commitment to what was pledged by the former administration, which launched and sponsored the peace process, its repeated declaration of that commitment, and its eagerness to be a full partner to push the peace process forward, this administration, while it is preparing to dispatch its envoy Dennis Ross to the region to discuss ways of progress in the process, should take into account Israel's serious attempt to empty the Madrid Formula of its substance and to harm the whole peace process in the region.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration knows more than others that pushing the peace process forward cannot take place through more bilateral rounds in Washington but by focusing on the substance, which should be discussed in these rounds, especially since Israel is determined, as we have said, to empty these bilateral rounds of their substance.

Iran

Velayati Views UN Policy, Other Issues

NC0310172393 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Sep 93 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified RESALAT correspondent in Tehran on 21 September]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] Dr. Velayati, on the eve of Your Excellency's visit to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly session, how do you assess the United Nations' performance on international developments in the past year? The main violators of the UN Charter now appear to be concentrated in the Security Council. We observed in the past year that the permanent members of the Security Council deprived the Bosnian nation of the right to self-defense and embarked on killing defenseless civilians in Somalia under the cover of the United Nations. These are examples of the United Nations' performance or initiatives, which continue under its cover. In view of this, what can the tyrannized nations expect from the United Nations?

[Velayati] The United Nations has undergone many structural changes since Communism collapsed. Some time before that, when the Soviet Union was weakening, but had not disintegrated, the former Soviet Union's representative was not a very serious obstacle in the path of most of the actions taken by the Security Council members; he tacitly concurred and coordinated with them.

A conspicuous example is the Security Council's stance on Iraq. Despite Iraq being its traditional ally, the Soviet Union acted in tandem with the West on every measure the Security Council took against Iraq. [passage omitted]

On issues beyond the United Nations, such as regional crises and how to tackle them, there are two specific examples—Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. The United Nations has clearly proved it has been unable to meet its obligations correctly in these two crises.

The reason is that some countries with the right of veto in the Security Council have their own interests in these regions, so their actions pursue these interests and do not conform with the UN Charter. People do not agree with the United Nations' actions in Somalia or Bosnia-Herzegovina.

For example, it is said the path is being opened to provide foodstuffs in Somalia, when the Americans are doing what they did in the sixties (and at the beginning of the seventies) in Vietnam. [passage omitted]

Another issue propounded in the United Nations is human rights. We are an Islamic Republic and so we abide by and defend human rights and stress and endorse them. But we oppose using human rights as a weapon in the hands of those who wish to impose their opinion on the rest of the world. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] Since you have limited time, we will change our topic of discussion. Following the independence of the Central Asian republics, Iran swiftly recognized them and established diplomatic relations with them. These relations appear to be at the desired level, but our cultural and economic relations are not similarly balanced. What is your opinion? On principle, what are the obstacles to more balanced political, economic, and cultural relations with the Central Asian republics?

[Velayati] It is about the same everywhere. Political decisions are made quicker and more clearly than it takes to implement them on the economic, cultural, and other levels, due to the conditions in various places.

Numerous misunderstandings can be eliminated if our president and the presidents of these republics could talk for an hour; brighter horizons would appear in mutual relations. This would enable the heads of state to give constructive form to broadening reciprocal relations. This could be followed by issuing a modus operandi to all the relevant departments, translating political determination into action in the political, economic, cultural, and technical fields.

There are different rules and regulations in these countries and much bureaucracy, which, in most cases, does not permit relations to progress as swiftly as we would wish. This is despite the sides possessing the necessary goodwill and determination to expand relations. But bureaucratic obstacles slow the pace.

Our customs and laws have been approved and taken shape and today, the sides intend to reduce the bottlenecks as far as possible. If some levies have legal bases, then other laws must be enacted to eliminate the old impediments. In every field, we have regulations such as those governing visas. If you want to visit these countries, you must abide by these rules and regulations.

All these regulations traverse a slow and protracted course. We want to achieve our tasks fast, away from the normal course. So we should devise amendments and exceptions to the general rules governing passports, for travel to Central Asia and neighboring countries, and provide facilities. This requires more laws and more decisions, but in general we are not dissatisfied with progress.

These republics have no independent experience in administering their respective countries except that which they have practically acquired in the past two years. This makes them different from a country like ours, which has a long record of government. Most of these countries don't even have their own national currencies, and the problem of changing money is the fundamental source of problems in these republics. If you sell your goods to these countries, they give you rubles, which you must convert to foreign currency.

This is the main problem, as there is no place where you can conduct such transactions. Most of the dealings are based on bartering, for which you must specify a ceiling.

Thus you sell something and you buy something for the equivalent amount; this is not an easy task. Suppose you sell something and get rubles; if you wait a week and try to purchase something with the rubles, their value will have changed. [passage omitted]

Despite such problems, we have made progress and after Russia, our best trading partner is Azerbaijan, in spite of the numerous difficulties in our path. If they need particular goods, the governor general of East Azerbaijan coordinates the procurement of all their needs, which we provide, and we obtain oil products such as gasoil. Clearing such import and export transactions is not easy. If the Energy Ministry gives Nakhichevan 30 megawatts of electricity, the governor general of east Azerbaijan gets gasoil from them. Then the Governorate and the Energy Ministry settle the accounts between themselves. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] In view of the recent visit by a British official to Tehran, do you think there will be any change in bilateral relations soon? Do the two sides have any preconditions for broadening or upgrading relations?

[Velayati] The obvious objective of our talks was a preliminary to my meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the United Nations. The British visitor met his counterpart in Tehran, Asefi; I can tell you nothing more. This does not mean there is more that I do not wish to divulge, just that the meeting was designed to pave the way for our meeting in New York.

British and Iranian relations have traversed many vicissitudes. But we believe the two sides can progress in their relations by upholding reciprocal respect and by not intervening in one another's internal affairs. We do not believe this process will be very fast-paced or progressive, but we do perceive an intent by both sides to eliminate problems in our relations. There should be no preconditions for talks. On principle, it is not proper to have preconditions in diplomatic talks between countries that wish to forge relations. It is preferable if the two sides discuss issues at talks instead of stipulating conditions or drawing lines from a distance. This is what we believe.

[RESALAT] Following the signing of the accord between the PLO and the Zionist regime, the West seeks to project the impression that because it opposes the accord, the Islamic Republic of Iran will be isolated internationally. What is your opinion?

[Velayati] Our interaction with other countries on forging or severing relations, the level of our visits and exchanges between delegations, and agreements between Iran and other countries belie their allegations. They only spread what they want to and whatever is tailored to their interests, not the facts. They are again using the obsolete weapon of isolationism, that is, if Iran does not do what they want, it will be isolated. This is nothing new; they have resorted to it since the revolution began. We are also used to this talk; their weapon has lost its efficacy. Iran is not to be ignored in view of its distinctive geopolitical importance in the Islamic world, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and West Asia. We need no one's permission to state our views. If we have particular opinions on Palestine, we will articulate them. This is what we have done since the revolution started and this is what we are doing now.

If we have something to say, we say it. We cannot have beliefs and not proclaim them. Iran is free and we are free to say what we want. This is what is meant by an independent country; it should be able to vocalize its stances independently. It should be able to do what its interests dictate. It is unacceptable for others to dictate what stance we should adopt. We are an independent country in our own right and we consider ourselves authorized, obligated, to proclaim what we believe in and elaborate on it.

[RESALAT] What will happen to the Palestinian Embassy in Tehran? Since the PLO has agreed not to have embassies abroad, will the Palestinian Embassy in Tehran be handed over to the true representatives of the Palestinian nation?

[Velayati] If the former Palestine Liberation Organization (!) has signed an agreement not to have embassies abroad, it is only 'Arafat's decision, not that of all the Palestinians or their representatives. Even before signing such an agreement, he never represented all the Palestinians. His signing it still doesn't make him the representative of the Palestinian majority.

Velayati on Peace Accord

NC1310123793 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 28 Sep 93 p 2, 15

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati with unidentified HAMSHAHRI correspondents in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] Speaking to the group of HAMSHAHRI correspondents, Dr. Velayati said:

[Velayati] Journalism on topics of foreign policy is very sensitive and constructive, and therefore demands much effort on the part of those involved in this task.

One of the problems of Third World countries is that in these countries it is difficult to find newspapers that have a long-standing record of publication, that have been enriched by experience, and that have found their niche. Some of these newspapers can be found in certain Arab countries such as Egypt and Lebanon. In India and Pakistan as well there are newspapers that conform to this description, but if we wish to categorize the newspapers of the Third World, Egypt and Lebanon are in the forefront. For example, take Lebanon's AL-SAFIR, which is run by a small number of progressive elements in the country, but has kept its standards despite its financial difficulties. It has also maintained its high journalistic prestige above all else despite some suggestions to downgrade it.

There are also newspapers such as AL-HAYAT and AL-NAHAR, which have immense experience in journalism, an asset that cannot be bought. This task requires perseverance and durability and the ability to discern correct policy. Occasionally, the question arises: Why do we cite articles from Western newspapers when the Third World newspapers do not follow such a policy?

One should say that the Western newspapers' reputation does not stem from the fact that they are Western and have the finances and the influence. They have centuries of experience. Parties and governments have come and gone, but the newspapers have endured. Translation is also necessary but not enough. We should consider articles on foreign policy important. Such articles enrich the field of journalism. It appears that many people have to work behind the scenes to prepare news reports and articles so that one really worthwhile article can be produced.

When prominent personalities write articles or express their views in the media, they also rely on a team that works for them. The newspapers should also have enough researchers so that they can present accurate and mature views. Eventually, the contents of such newspapers come to be considered as documents.

If the work of writing articles and commentaries is repeated frequently, the newspaper acquires a certain reputation, and no doubts are raised regarding the views expressed in that newspaper. The office of political studies at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, which receives 400 foreign social, political, and economic newspapers and magazines, is a valuable source of reference for the newspapers. Our embassies in various parts of the world also have facilities for this and have access to foreign publications.

The articles in the Foreign Ministry that have been written by ministry experts are also a worthy source for newspapers to refer to.

[HAMSHAHRI] As regards the Middle East peace conference, Israel's aggression in southern Lebanon, and Iran's role in the implementation of a cease-fire, much has been said. Is it possible that you could tell us about your recent visit and what happened during that visit?

[Velayati] The circumstances were very sensitive and the Islamic Resistance had been attacked on the front lines. We could not remain silent, so we traveled to the area and began our negotiations with the Governments of Lebanon and Syria.

Our first mission was to support the Islamic Resistance so that its determination should not be broken and because we had been asked to visit by the Resistance. We also considered the visit necessary and went to Damascus, where we met the Hizballah secretary general. We held detailed talks with Syrian and Lebanese officials. Our objective was that the Resistance members and the Resistance itself should continue. We have invested a lot in the Resistance in the political and moral sense in the past 12 years, and we consider it our obligation and top priority to support the Islamic Resistance and the Palestinians who are involved in the struggle. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] In view of the PLO accord with the Zionist entity and what has been called its statement of principles, how do you see the future of the Middle East crisis?

[Velayati] If we take present conditions into account, we do not see a very bright future. This is because not only the Palestinians but the Israelis, as well, are deeply divided in their own ranks. Therefore, if the issue is resolved in the opinion of some of the compromising Palestinian groups, it is not considered as such by those who have problems inside the occupied territories and who do not accept the accord.

It was for this very reason that the U.S. President expressed concern about the practical difficulties on the path to implementing the accord as soon as it was signed by the PLO and the Zionist regime at the White House. One must see the nature of the issue and the solution that is being sought. More than 1 million Palestinians are in the occupied territories, and a few million are in adjoining countries or at a considerable distance. How will they resolve this issue when Jewish settlements are still in the occupied territories? If we grant autonomy to the Palestinians, what will happen to the Jewish settlements? Will they be razed?

Hundreds of thousands of Jews have been settled in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, that is, in the areas that all are optimistic will be returned to the Palestinians in accordance with UN Resolutions 242 and 338. What will they do with those Jews? Will they become refugees? If we really study this issue, we will find that it is indeed a strange one and not one that can be comprehended easily. [passage omitted]

[HAMSHAHRI] At the beginning of 1980, we put forth the idea that the Soviet Union might disintegrate, and perhaps we were not taken very seriously. However, what was destined to happen came to pass, and it seems that anything is possible in the world of politics. We feel that journalists should view issues from this perspective. Is there a possibility of an all-encompassing compromise?

[Velayati] No hypothesis is impossible. Would it be practical, however, for us to make assumptions and seek solutions for them? Would this not make us wallow in unrealistic fantasies? We should think in terms of reality, and the reality is that in Lebanon and Palestine, every inch of soil is important. There is war and bloodshed over every inch. The entire issue is so complicated and obscure that its ultimate solution appears very difficult.

It is possible that the problem of the Golan Heights may be resolved with Syria, but that is not the sole issue. The main issue with regard to the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon is that of water, which is wrongfully utilized by Israel. Therefore, the implementation of Resolution 425 is more difficult with regard to south Lebanon than a withdrawal from an arid desert such as the Sinai.

[HAMSHAHRI] Following the amendment to the Constitution, numerous sessions of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] took place, which were mostly on foreign policy issues. The armed forces and foreign policy are two wings of the country's security. As regards foreign policy, relations with neighbors are given special attention—in keeping with the SNSC's mission—and therefore we were trying to forge relations with Central Asian countries. This was being done to safeguard the country's security from all sides and to generate a more open political atmosphere. Why has this not been elaborated upon in the press?

[Velayati] We cannot tell everyone everything. If we tell a friend, an enemy may hear it. There is no country that spells out every detail of its foreign policy for its people. Part of it has to remain classified so that the enemy will not know about it; otherwise, he will thwart every move we make.

[HAMSHAHRI] You referred to the domestic and foreign press and their commentaries and analyses regarding foreign policy, which you mentioned as factors contributing to their growth and maturity. Our journalists expect to be able to develop their aptitudes so that when they write a commentary or analysis that does not conform with the country's foreign policy stances, there is some tolerance in this regard. If this is not developed and practiced, creative forces will not come to the fore to enrich our press and strongly express their views on foreign policy.

[Velayati] I believe that correspondents should not content themselves with traditional, cliche-filled interviews. They should ask questions and counterquestions on the responses they receive, so that an interview becomes a series of questions and answers.

Paper Sees Heightening U.S. Pressure on Iran

NC1110101793 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 4 Oct 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The U.S. Echelons Do Not Comprehend Facts"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Even though the declared and undeclared efforts on the part of the United States in order to exert political and economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran are part of a long-term program in Washington's policy toward Tehran, these efforts have become more conspicuous in the past few weeks. The heightening of this campaign was due to the overt opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the treasonous PLO-Israel compromise, the true formulator of which is the United States.

The U.S. Democratic leaders, who are the greatest supporters of Zionism, are seeking to convince the Islamic Republic of Iran's government to remain silent in the face of this treacherous accord between 'Arafat and the despotic Zionist regime. Simultaneous with this act of treason taking shape, the U.S. Government sent a message to the Islamic Republic of Iran's government and even spelled out a price for acquiescing to their request. However, the answer that they received very clearly and articulately drove home to them that the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran will never put the seal of endorsement on the sale of Islamic homelands at any cost.

As usual, after being disappointed by their covert and clandestine policy and political message, the U.S. echelons began chanting a defensive and propagandistic litany and tried to motivate other countries that are Iran's trading partners to put economic pressure on Tehran. In tandem with these measures, Washington also resorted to other ways to put political pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, including instigatory speeches at the UN General Assembly sessions and increasingly irresponsible allegations with regard to some regional disputes.

There is no doubt that the acceleration of these U.S. efforts indicates the importance of the opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the treacherous PLO-Israel plan.

The more Washington flails its arms and legs, the more apparent is the depth of the influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran among the Muslim nations and in the region and the effect of Tehran's opposition to the shameful 'Arafat compromise on the current situation. The Americans are well aware that the heart of the Muslim nations has been won by the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and that the Islamic Revolution has permeated the depths of their very being.

It is for this reason that Washington realizes full well that by such actions it will not achieve anything and that the U.S.-Zionist "PLO-Israel accord" is doomed to failure.

Even though there are those in the United States who realize the futility of these hostile U.S. actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, such as Gary Sick, the former U.S. National Security Council adviser who admitted that U.S. policies on the Islamic Republic of Iran are far removed from reality, it appears that the U.S. Administration has not yet become acquainted with reality. The path that is being followed by Clinton and his associates will undoubtedly culminate in the isolation of the United States in the world, especially in the Islamic world. It will lead to the complete defeat of his policies, but they will only realize this fact when it is too late.

Motives for U.S. Somalia Withdrawal Viewed

NC0710203193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1923 GMT 7 Oct 93

[From the "Behind Events" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES have cited U.S. Administration officials as saying that the U.S. President will announce today, Thursday, the U.S. Administration's decision to withdraw its forces from Somalia before April 1994.

A very senior U.S. official announced yesterday, Wednesday, that Clinton—who will view U.S. policy in Somalia today—has approved the dispatch of additional U.S. forces to Somalia for a short period of time, while setting the date for the complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from that country. For more details, here is our report:

No observer doubts that the hostile military operation staged by the U.S. forces and the UN forces in the Somali capital last Sunday aimed at achieving military gains against the Somalis, who are opposed to the U.S. intervention, so that Clinton can convince the U.S. Congress and his European allies. The latter have started to ask how long they will have to stay in Somalia, because their presence has started to wear on them because the UN forces have clearly become a party to the conflict as a result of the arrogant U.S. policy in Somalia. The U.S. Administration pursued this policy with the aim of controlling the political situation there and of setting up a regime loyal to it which will protect its influence and imperialist interests.

It is noted in this respect that the U.S. Congress is putting constant pressure on the Clinton Administration to withdraw the U.S. forces from that country because they are an easy target for the Somalis.

But the results of the U.S. operation have dashed Clinton's hopes. The U.S. forces have suffered heavy losses when their equipment and numbers are compared to the Somalis' primitive force. More than seven Americans have been killed, dozens injured, one pilot captured, and five others listed as missing. Two helicopters have also been downed and the corpses of the Americans dragged in the streets and markets, a measure that revealed the Somalis' anger with the U.S. presence.

Following this operation, the U.S. presence in Somalia has become a problem for Bill Clinton. Hence, he, his advisers, and members of his administration have become absorbed since last Tuesday in studying and assessing the outcome of the unsuccessful U.S. military operation in order to decide the position of the U.S. forces in Somalia. The military operation prompted the U.S. Congress and public to redouble the pressures on Clinton to withdraw his forces from Somalia as soon as possible.

The U.S. Administration has not yet decided on any new option in Somalia despite the continued consultations between Clinton, his administration members, and advisers. But THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES said today that Clinton is expected to announce a decision on withdrawing the U.S. forces before April 1994.

It appears that Clinton has become more than ever eager to withdraw the U.S. forces in order to get rid of the U.S. pressures and avoid increased losses among the U.S. forces. But he wants a face-saving withdrawal. This explains his statement yesterday in which he said that the United States wants to withdraw from Somalia with dignity. The situation there does not permit it to withdraw with dignity, but it will have to leave defeated and humbled because Clinton has gone to Somalia in order to arrange the political situation in Mogadishu in favor of U.S. interests. But his attempt has failed.

It also appears that the U.S. leadership has entrusted UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali with the task of finding an honorable way out for the United States from the Somali quagmire. The latter has decided to travel to Somalia after meeting U.S. officials and discussing the Somali crisis with them.

In any case, Clinton has now decided to reinforce his forces in Somalia with 2,000 more soldiers equipped with tanks and armored vehicles until a face-saving way out for the United States is found, that is, if it still has any prestige left. But this seems to be impossible because Somali leader Farah Aidid has asked his followers to escalate the confrontation with the UN forces so as to expel them in humiliation from the country.

Tehran Radio on Somalia Policy

NC1110075593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] With the escalation of the crisis of the U.S. forces' presence in Somalia, U.S. efforts for an honorable exit from that country have been stepped up on two fronts: First, the strengthening of the military position by the dispatching of reinforcements and extensive military equipment. In conjunction with this measure, Bill Clinton has also sent messages to some heads of allied countries calling for them to send some combat forces to Somalia. Thus, Washington is seeking to procure replacements for its own troops and to gradually pull U.S. troops from Somalia.

Second, the United States is trying to use regional forces such as the Organization of African Unity [OAU], the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], and the governments of countries bordering on Somalia so that U.S. forces can withdraw unscathed from the Somalia crisis, which has embroiled Washington and the United Nations.

The U.S. efforts for a political solution to the Somalia crisis became a priority for Washington's upper echelons only after the crisis metamorphosed into a political one. So far, thousands of Somali civilians, including women and children, have become victims of Washington's and the UN's military policy in Somalia. In addition, a large number of the so-called peace-keeping forces sent by the United Nations have lost their lives to U.S. militarism. As long as the arrogant Washington policies did not entail the sacrifice of American lives, the Washington hierarchy did not even contemplate a political solution to this imbroglio.

Due to the Egyptian position in the OAU, which is headed by Husni Mubarak, and Egypt's status in the Arab League, which has an Egyptian secretary general, that country has been transformed into an active U.S. pawn within the framework of the new U.S. policy in Somalia. It is expected that within the next week, a conference will be held in Addis Ababa for reconciliation among the warring sides.

This dichotomy of the U.S. policy on Somalia—that is, a simultaneous two-pronged approach in the political and military fields—raises the question: In the tussle between the militarists and the politicians of the White House, which group will be able to rein in the other and specify the form the ultimate solution will take?

Velayati Discusses Ties With Saudi Minister

LD1310220893 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 13, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia in a telephone conversation today, described as "fruitful" the recent hotline talks between the Iranian president and the Saudi Arabian king.

'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal, agreed that the two leaders should meet each other to put into effect the results of their mutual understandings.

The telephone conversation between Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on September 27, helped the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reach an agreement to stem the downward trend of the oil prices.

TEHRAN TIMES on Saudi Ties

NC0910083893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Sep 93 p 2

[Editorial: "A Step Forward"]

[Text] Expansion of areas of collaboration between Tehran and Riyadh, issues of bilateral interest, and in particular cooperation within the framework of OPEC for the purpose of stabilizing the oil price, were among the topics of yesterday afternoon's telephone conversation between Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Referring to the significant role Iran and Saudi Arabia perform in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for cooperation and joint efforts on the part of the two countries for the stabilization of oil price, and even raising it to such a level that would be a true index of the worth of this valuable commodity.

Telephone contacts between the two high-ranking authorities of the two countries have seldom been established since the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979, and thus the telephone contact of yesterday should be considered a step forward.

The rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh will most certainly meet with opposition from the West. Washington and London will never be happy with the existence of cordial ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Even before the Islamic Revolution, and at a time when the two countries were run along similar lines, and both were considered allies of the West, close ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia were not favored by the Western countries, especially when such ties were apt to lead to increases in oil prices.

The oil prices are now down by 20 percent from last year, and have declined to about 50 percent of the prices which were prevalent in the early eighties. Conversely, all industrial commodities manufactured by the industrial countries have doubled or tripled during the past decade.

In general, it could be stated that discord between Tehran and Riyadh have had the effect of reducing oil prices, with the ultimate result of creating billions of dollars of benefit for the industrialists and the rich industrial nations.

So with the first sparks of collaboration between Iran and Saudi Arabia, we should not be surprised to see all-out efforts on the part of the Western countries to disrupt the cordial relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Both countries as well as the other members of OPEC are heavily dependent on oil revenues for regulating their economies, and any decline in oil prices will create economic disasters for them.

Thus it is hoped that in view of the critical conditions presently prevailing in the international oil markets, all OPEC members will adopt rational and realistic attitudes at the Geneva meeting.

'New Period' Seen in Iran-Iraq Relations

NC0910092793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Visit of the Two Foreign Visitors"]

[Text] The Iranian Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati met his Iraqi counterpart Sa'id al-Sahhaf, in New York. During the meeting the two foreign ministers reached agreement for the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister to travel to Iraq towards the end of the current month.

In 1989 when Iran accepted the peace proposal and agreed to negotiate, the country was confident of its capabilities for the continuation of the sacred defense. But the Islamic Republic of Iran decided to accept the Security Council Resolution 598 in good will, and began to act in accordance with the terms of that resolution which had been made the basis of the peace. Iran did not hesitate to cooperate with the relevant international organizations, and freed many PoWs unilaterally.

Unfortunately such a good will was not reciprocated by Iraq. To begin with the Iraqi regime announced the number of the Iranian PoWs much below the real figure, and after the true number of the Iranian PoWs was determined, the Iraqis failed to release them in accordance with the terms of the Security Council Resolution. They also failed to carry out many other terms of the resolution, and violated the ceasefire many times. Iraq never offered any explanation for the violation of the ceasefire which was confirmed by the UN peace-keeping forces.

In recent years and specially after the occupation of Kuwait, Iraq has been claiming that its principal objective is to fight imperialism and the United States. But if there is any truth to this claim, then Iraq should have joined forces with Iran which is in the forefront of the fight, and with whom Iraq has common borders and interests.

Still, there is hope that after the visit of the two foreign ministers, relations between Iran and Iraq will improve, and that a new period will start among the two countries, in which rational and good neighborly conduct will gradually obliterate the painful memories of the past.

As a good start and to show its good will Iraq could open the way to the Iranian pilgrims to the holy sites in Iraq. Such a gesture will have a great effect on improving relations between the two countries, and will generate mutually good feelings between the two nations.

The visit of the Iranian deputy minister to Iraq and the results of his visit will demonstrate whether the Iraqis sincerely wish to improve relations or are trying to start a new political maneuver.

UN Credibility Undermined by Pressure on Libya

LD0210191093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Although Libya has recently agreed to hand over the people accused of involvement in the bombing of U.S. and French passenger aircraft for trial in the West; nonetheless, the United States, France, and Britain have submitted a resolution to the Security Council according to which international sanctions against Libya are to be tightened. [passage omitted]

Although it will be some time before the resolution proposed by the Western countries is approved and implemented, it has, in effect, taken the struggle between the West and Libya to a new stage. [passage omitted]

On the face of it, the only path that has been left open to Libya is total submission to the West's demands. Thus, when the proposed resolution for tightening sanctions against Libya was submitted, the Westerners implicitly indicated that they are in no hurry to discuss and debate the resolution in the Security Council. In other words, they prefer to keep it hanging like the Sword of Damocles over Libya's head.

This vengeful behavior toward Libya is taking place at a time when these same Western countries have become the ringleaders of so-called efforts to solve the Middle East crisis and are using carrot and stick policies to make Arab countries join the trend toward compromise in the region.

The explanation behind these two, to all appearances, contradictory policies is the new regional order that the United States and Western countries are trying to impose on the Middle East and North Africa. Amid all this, Iraq and Libya are seen as two elements which, as far as Westerners are concerned, do not fit in properly with this new order. Therefore, by extering pressure on Libya and Iraq, they are trying not only to bring them into line with the new regional order—the axis of which is Israel—but also to issue a warning to those other Arab countries that are not showing the necessary flexibility for the West's liking.

The West's negative response to Egypt's mediation efforts to solve this problem, and the West's indifference to the opinion of the Arab community show that the United States and Europe have no intention of weakening their planned new regional order with compromise or of making it possible for associations of Arab unity to resume activity, something which would remind them of the old regional order.

What this whole episode reveals is the political behavior that the West adopts toward its opponents on judicial and legal pretexts. If it were really the case that the Security Council should seriously address legal and judicial problems, there are so many such problems in the world that there would never be time enough to deal with unproven accusations.

In addition, people familiar with such issues know full well that dealing with international judicial and legal disputes falls within the jurisdiction of The Hague Tribunal, not the Security Council, which is supposed to deal with security matters. What can therefore be seen in these kinds of measures adopted by the Security Council is its double standards and its selective attitude toward problems; something which continues to cast doubt on the credibility of this international organ.

Tehran-Ankara Trade Relations Discussed

LD0910163793 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Iran's minister of commerce, Yahya al-Eshaq said here today that in view of historical trade bonds between Iran and Turkey, the two countries should revive the ancient silk road and facilitate trade exchanges.

In a meeting with visiting Turkish minister of industry and trade minister, Tahir Kose, he said that Iran is keen on having an active presence in international markets and this requires more cooperation between the two countries.

Kose said that the two countries should have trust in each other and remove all obstacles in the way of trade relations through mutual cooperation.

Turkey's Israeli Ties Assailed

NC0110213193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 30 Sep 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Zionist regime has tried to improve its political and economic relations with Turkey during the past few years. Considering the agreement the Zionist regime has signed with the PLO, Tel Aviv expects Turkey to play a constructive role between Israel and the Arab countries. The Zionist regime's officials have stressed that the agreement they have signed with the PLO has initiated a new era in the relations between Turkey and Israel and that Turkey, which has always been regarded as Israel's ally, has shouldered serious responsibilities. In fact, the newspaper HURRIYET, which is published in Turkey, has quoted an Israeli Foreign Ministry official as saying that his country's most important expectation from Turkey, which is a member of the Islamic Conference Organization, is that it will try to help the Zionist regime establish relations with the Arab countries.

According to the Israeli official, the Zionist regime also expects Turkey to make an effort to get the Arab embargo of Israel lifted, strengthen the agreement between Tel Aviv and the PLO, create conditions that will allow Israel to make investments in the Caucasus, and help Tel Aviv participate in the projects related to transportation and communications in the region, including those related to the supply of electricity and water. All these things are expected to be discussed in detail between the foreign ministers of Turkey and the Zionist regime, who are attending the UN General Assembly meetings at the present time.

According to the political observers, the question of Turkey and Israel waging a joint struggle against Islamic radicalism is the most important issue in the relations between the two countries. The Zionist regime regards Turkey as one of its closest friends. It hopes to have the economic and trade doors of the regional countries opened to Israel with Turkey's help.

Turkey has tried to maintain favorable relations with both the Arab countries and the Zionist regime. Acting on that point of view, Ankara has considerably strengthened its relations with the Zionist regime during the past few years. For example, the political missions of Turkey and Israel were raised to ambassadorial level some time ago. Later, Israel's minister of tourism visited Turkey. The visit was reciprocated by the Turkish minister of tourism.

The political experts believe that all that was [words indistinct] for the intensive diplomatic effort in the region, which is supported by the United States. Obviously, the objective of that effort is to further strengthen the Zionist regime's role in the Middle East with Turkey's help. Nevertheless, the strengthening of Turkey's relations with the Zionist regime has been criticized by the Islamic and nationalist groups in that country. They have stressed that the strengthening of the relations between the two countries will upset Turkey's Muslim people.

Afghanistan Urged To Act on Drug Trafficking

LD1410051293 Tehran IRNA in English 1912 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 5, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, here on Tuesday called on Afghan border officials to take the drug-trafficking as a serious issue.

At a meeting with a prominent member of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], Haj Qari Ahmad, Borujerdi said the Islamic Republic of Iran was determined to launch an all-out combat against drug trafficking.

He said Iran was willing to have close cooperation with the Islamic Government of Afghanistan such as it has already with neighbouring Pakistan.

Borujerdi briefed the Afghan official on Iran's stance towards the developments in Afghanistan and expressed hope that the Afghan people would live in peace and away from any tension in order to begin reconstruction of their country.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran as a neighbouring country, will do what it can to assist Afghanistan.

Qari Ahmad who is the party official in charge of south-western Afghanistan, said that his party stressed the need for restoration of peace and security across the country.

He appreciated Iran's assistance to Afghan people, especially, the people of Herat.

1,000 New Tents Set Up for Azerbaijan Refugees

LD0710192393 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Ardebil, Oct. 7, IRNA—Iran has set up 1,000 new tents in Imishli and Sa'atli camps in Azerbaijan Republic accommodating up to 25,000 Azeri people, Secretary General of the Red Crescent Society, Seyfollah Vahid Dastjerdi, announced here Thursday.

Dastjerdi stated that Iran's Red Crescent Society was ready to shelter at least 100,000 Azeri Muslims and to provide them with necessary facilities.

Dastjerdi was warmly received by Azeri people while inspecting the camps set up in Azerbaijan yesterday.

He said that their warm welcome encouraged Iran to continue her humanitarian assistance to the Azeri people.

Red Crescent Assists Refugees

LD0910183893 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Orumiyeh (W. Azerbaijan Prov.), Oct. 9, IRNA—Iran's Red Crescent Society (RCS) has so far housed 25,000 displaced Azeris in camps in the Imishli and Sa'atli regions of the republic, said RCS Secretary General Seyfollah Vahid Dastjerdi here today. More relief camps will soon be set up in the two regions, he added.

Last month Iran and Azerbaijan signed an agreement to set up camps for some 100,000 people displaced by the Armenian offensives.

According to Dastjerdi, Iran, which has the largest refugee population in world, cannot afford to meet the heavy burden of sheltering refugees all by itself.

In Islamic Iran there are refugees from Afghanistan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lebanon, he said.

On Iraqi Arabs who sought refuge in Iran in the aftermath of their failed uprising against the Ba'thist regime following the Persian Gulf War, the RCS chief put their number at 45,000 and said that they have been settled in Qom, Tehran, and several southern towns.

Over the past few months some 5,000 more Iraqis, and this time from that country's southern marshes have crossed into Iran, following the fresh wave of suppression in Iraq.

Paper Assesses Baku Decision to Join CIS

NC0410181593 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Sep 93 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Baku—Reviewing a Strategy"]

[Excerpts] Two years after refraining from joining the CIS, the Republic of Azerbaijan has finally decided to join. [passage omitted]

When two years ago news agencies reported on Azerbaijan's decision not to participate in the CIS conference in Almaty, it was clear to most political analysts in Central Asia and the Caucasus that from then on, even if Azerbaijan would not be a target of displeasure by the CIS as far as its domestic problems were concerned, not to mention the Karabakh crisis, it would also not enjoy any support from the CIS.

Therefore, clearly the major objective behind Geydar Aliyev's visit to Moscow one month ago and behind his talks with Yeltsin, which ultimately led to Azerbaijan's decision to join the CIS, was prevention of a potential power from becoming a powerful enemy in the current crisis in the Caucasus; and in order to achieve this there was no other alternative but to join the CIS—a group in which Russia's political and economic strength is very obvious, at least for the time being.

During the past year there has been a feeling of pessimism among many of the people and some of the ruling officials as far as Russia's stance on the current crisis in Karabakh is concerned. Many in Azerbaijan believe that from the very outset of the crisis, the Russians did not adopt a logical stance. They even consider the Kremlin to be among the fomenters of the Karabakh crisis and believe that even today the Russians support the creation of hotbeds in this region and especially in republics which—for one reason or another—have tried, during the past few years, to keep a distance from Moscow's centralized power. The Russians believe that since the young republics in Central Asia have not yet achieved a stabilized political identity at home, they need close cooperation with Moscow in order to ensure their stability, calm, security, and economic progress and that this will ultimately lead to their dependence on Russia.

The people of Azerbaijan are suspicious of and deeply concerned over this political outlook that prevails among most of Moscow's leaders. However, it is not clear how helpful the decision by the Republic of Azerbaijan to join the CIS will be to the Baku leaders in the policy that they have adopted in order to overcome their domestic crises.

The Armenians continue their savage acts in Karabakh and apparently they enjoy foreign support in their unbridled military operations. But at least the truth is that the possibility of an immediate impact on the Karabakh crisis has ceased to exist with Baku's membership in the CIS.

Kazakh Minister Arrives for Talks on Cooperation

LD0310092393 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—Iran and the Republic of Kazakhstan will cooperate in such fields as industries, communications, trade, oil and natural gas, a bulletin of Iran's mines and metals ministry reported here Saturday.

The Islamic Republic is also likely to offer surface transportation facilities to Kazakhstan for the export of its minerals via the Persian Gulf port city of Bandar Abbas.

The port has a capacity of loading 15 million tons of minerals for export and unloading another 10 million for imports annually.

Kazakh Minister of Energy and Fuel Resources Kadyr Karabatovich Baykenov who arrived here Saturday heading a 30-man delegation for a three-day visit, is expected to hold extensive talks in the said areas with Iran's Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji.

In their first round of talks Saturday afternoon, the visiting Kazakh minister and Mahluji discussed cooperation in areas including industries, metallurgy, machine building, oil and gas, and transportation.

A project for linking trans-Iranian railroad to Kazakhstan and other Asian central republics will be completed in 1995, which will enable the republics to have access to the high seas through Bandar al-Abbas.

Five committees have been formed to debate issues for future bilateral cooperation between Almaty and Tehran.

Central Asia Warned Against Ties With West

LD1310222793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mr. Douglas Hogg, Britain's deputy foreign secretary, yesterday arrived in Azerbaijan on a several-legged tour of the Caucasia and Central Asia. In a meeting with Azeri President Geydar Aliyev, Mr. Hogg held talks on expansion of bilateral cooperation, especially on exploration and exploitation of oil wells in Azerbaijan and noted participation of British firms in the operations. According to political observers in Britain, this country has been trying—since the disintegration of the former Soviet Union—to find fresh footholds for having influence in the strategic regions of Caucasia and Central Asia. Hence, London, by extending a series of political privileges, is seeking to gain its long-term economic interests in those regions. Among them, access to the oil fields in Caucasia and entering the untapped markets of Central Asia and Caucasia constitute one of the significant objectives.

Currently, faced with a grave economic recession, the British Government, through making use of various resources that exist in the crisis-torn regions of Caucasia and Central Asia, hopes to bolster and expand its ties with them. It also wants to pave the ground for increased investment by British firms so as to be able to benefit from these investments in their capacity as a permanent base for attaining political objectives. At the same time, Britain wants to bring about a briskness in the operations of British firms, which are presently faced with a crisis on account of the economic stagnation within their country.

Among the countries of the Caucasian and Central Asian regions, Azerbaijan has a special place for Britain because of possessing oil reserves estimated to be around 7 billion barrels. These countries are now in dire need of new investments in order to utilize them in a better manner. Since Azerbaijan lacks the facilities required for renovation of its oil industry, Britain is seeking to grab this opportunity to its own advantage. During the rule of Abulfaz Elchibey, an agreement was concluded with the British Petroleum for exploring and exploiting the oil wells. With just one day before its final approval by Elchibey, the agreement was suspended by the new leaders of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The reason for it was that they believed the allocation of 70 percent share of these oil wells to Britain as opposed to the just 30 percent of them to Azerbaijan was unfair and that it would lead to the control of Western firms over the economic destiny of Azerbaijan in the long-run. For this reason Geydar Aliyev, while suspending the agreement, called for its reexamination.

In the opinion of informed observers—based on the colonial background of the British oil firms—the move on the part of Mr. Aliyev in fact was construed as a deadly blow to their interests. These observers attribute the main reason for opposition of the British and American Governments to Elchibey's dismissal of their concern over total annulment, by the new government of Azerbaijan, of the oil agreements with the American and British firms.

In general, one must say that since Western governments, especially the British Government, in their economic ties seek to attain their long-term political objectives in full it is essential that total care and vigilance be observed while concluding agreements and establishing ties.

In similar experiences it has already been proved that the Britons, in their relations—prior to thinking of reciprocal interests and sound economic relations—look for securing the economic resources of various states and taking colossal profits for the British firms.

Formation of 'Asian League' Advocated

NC0510150393 Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Sep 93 p 16

[Unattributed political commentary: "Asian League"]

[Excerpts] Some analysts have described the 19th century as the century of Europe, the 20th century as the century of America, and the 21st century as the century of Asia.

This assessment is based on the existing realities in international politics and economy as well as on the existing potential in Asia. [passage omitted]

If Asian countries are able to exploit the current world economic situation to their benefit in one way or another and to expand bilateral relations among each other in order to overcome each other's needs and to expand each other's markets, undoubtedly the next century will be the century of Asia.

The presence of the Indian prime minister in Iran is a good opportunity for Iran and India to become the forerunners of an "Asian League." Both Iran and India have similar characteristics and potentials, many cultural similarities, and the ability to be the forerunners in this initiative because of the role that they have played in the history of "Asian civilization." [passage omitted]

India's relations with Muslim countries and especially Iran and Pakistan is greatly affected by India's domestic conditions and its approach toward the Muslims inside India. The Kashmir problem and the religious conflicts that are largely fomented by Hindu extremists are considered two major obstacles to improved relations between India and Muslim countries. But the political awareness of Indian politicians dictates that under the new international conditions a logical solution be found for these problems. India's history shows that it has sufficient "religious leniency" and that if it were not for plotting hands in Indian society, the followers of all religions could coexist as they did in the past. As far as the Kashmir problem is concerned, Iran can play a considerable role. This conflict can be solved through talks and with the formation of a tripartite commission consisting of India, Pakistan, and Iran and the necessary conditions can be created for further cooperation between India and Islamic countries.

Clearly if India, Pakistan, Iran, and China achieve closer relations, the preliminary steps for the creation of an Asian League will be taken. With the participation of the Central Asian countries, this league will extend to the Transcaucasus. Then, with its extension to eastern and southeastern Asia, it will enjoy greater strength and if it can also absorb Japan, Asia's economic strength will be completed, and Asia will be transformed into the world's largest economic power. The new conditions in the world are ready for the creation of this movement. What remains is the determination of Asia's leaders—a determination to logically solve problems among themselves and a determination to strengthen the common strong points among themselves. It is hoped that the Indian prime minister's visit to Iran will manifest the determination to form an "Asian League" and mark the beginning of extensive cooperation among the Asian countries.

Industries Minister Meets Foreign Officials

LD1110215093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] On the last day of the Tehran International Trade Fair, the Finnish minister of forestry and agriculture met with our country's industries minister. At the meeting, the industries minister declared Iran's readiness to export various industrial parts to and have long-term cooperation with Finland.

Meetings were also held between the industries minister and the Turkmenistan ministers of building materials and trade; the problems and obstacles in the way of economic ties between the two countries were discussed.

A group of managers of factories and companies affiliated with the Parliament of British Muslims, at a meeting with our country's industries minister on Monday afternoon, emphasized their cooperation in the implementation of industrial projects, the exchange of technical know-how, the transfer of technology, and the effective role of Muslim industrialists in Britain and cooperation with Muslim countries.

Finnish Minister Calls For Expansion of Ties

LD0910161093 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Visiting Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Martti Pura today called for expansion of ties between Tehran and Helsinki particularly in commercial and technical fields.

Meeting with Minister of Commerce Yahya al-Eshaq, Pura termed Iran as one of Finland's major trade partners, saying that the economic situation of both countries required that mutual trade and technical relations be upgraded to a favorable level.

He said Iran's non-oil exports to Finland this year increased by 10 percent compared with last year.

Al-Eshaq said that the Islamic Republic was prepared to cooperate with Finland in various areas especially in paper and wood industry and in joint manufacturing of parts for industrial machinery.

German Official Urges Judicial Cooperation

LD1110015593 Tehran IRNA in English 2332 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Head of the German parliament's Sub-Commission for Human Rights, Friedrich Vogel, here Sunday called for further cooperation between Tehran and Bonn in judicial areas.

He made the remark at a meeting with executive deputy for the judiciary chief, Dr. Bizhani today.

Discussing issues of mutual interest the two sides underscored the need for exchanging judicial data between the two countries.

Vogel's visit to Iran is in line with continuation of the talks and consultation between the parliaments of Iran and Germany.

Bosnian Envoy Assails Muslim States' Stance

LD0510131693 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 5, IRNA—Bosnian ambassador to Tehran, Omer Bahman, rebuked U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the Islamic countries for their passive stance towards the genocide of Bosnian Muslims. In an interview with IRNA here Tuesday Bahman added that the U.N. has become a tool in the hands of big powers. He said that the U.N. chief was expected to implement the Security Council resolutions on Bosnia but that he played the role of a "subservient" who does not respond to his conscience or fulfill his obligations.

"We should not press the Muslim countries or the U.N. to take any action. They must be aware of their own duties and the U.N. has the duty of preventing agrression and defending victims." "Had the resolutions on Bosnia been implemented," Bahman believed, "Muslims could have benefited to a great extent."

Asked what the Bosnian Muslims expected from the Islamic countries, Bahman expressed regrets that the Muslim states are fully concerned about their economic relations with the West and follow the path of France and Britain in respect to the Bosnian crisis.

He specifically mentioned Turkey for having refused to take any step in favor of the Bosnian Muslims. "The Bosnian Muslims expected a lot from Ankara," he said explaining that the Bosnian community in Turkey is larger than the Bosnian population in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Turks must know that in case they face any similar problem in future, they would be lent alone such was the case with Pakistan which received no assistance from the members of the Association of the Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN), when it was attacked by India."

In the opinion of the Bosnian diplomat, after Bosnia next targets will be Croatia and Turkey. "The West is not interested in Turkish influence on the newly-independent Central Asian states, which are mostly Muslim populated. However, he added, the West has two main levers to use against Ankara, the Kurdish issue and the economic bottlenecks there, Bahman noted.

The Bosnian ambassador warned that Muslim countries must take lessons from the Bosnian tragedy because the peace negotiator David Owen's plan for Bosnia, approved by Britain, France and Russia, can easily be applied on other Islamic countries.

Asked whether the peace accords with Serbs could be in the interest of Bosnians, he emphatically said "no". All peace plans have been signed by the Muslims under pressure as they had no other alternative since their enemies are very strong and enjoy support of Russia, Britain and France.

He said that the Serbs by waging the war against Muslims wish to wipe out the Bosnian state from the European map, annex it to Serbia and exterminate the Bosnian Muslims in the region. Croats, Bahman continued, follow similar aims while both of them pretend that the war is the one against the "Islamic threat" in the region.

The Russians, too, support the plan for 'Greater Serbia' because they first of all wish to increase the scope of their influence in the Balkan region and also to get access to the Adriatic. Britain and France, as well, support the plan for Greater Serbia because they want to play an influential role in Europe.

The Bosnian ambassador warned that the shift in the Croatian policy towards the Muslims is in fact to the detriment of the Croatian nation themselves. Because, he believed, Serbs would not leave Croats in peace after they are finished with Muslims. "The Serb aggressors plan to ethnically cleanse Muslims in Kosovo as soon as they settle the Bosnian issue."

He made it clear that "the U.S. has no interest in Bosnia" and that is the main reason why Washington is reluctant to interfere in or perhaps there is a deal between the U.S. and Europe to leave the settlement of the Bosnian issue to Europeans.

Asked whether the recent move by Fikret Abdic who declared independence in Bihac, northwest Bosnia, has weakened the Muslim position, he said "the Abdic's act was disgusting and made us weaker than before." He said that Abdic may gain victory in the short term but he cannot achieve his goals. He said that Abdic might have been instigated by those who wish to defeat Bosnia. He has been collaborating with Serbs and Croats for a long time. "We knew his objectives and should have expelled him. But our president (Alija Izetbegovic) made a mistake by allowing all those who want to serve the Muslims, to remain in Bosnia.

He said there is a likelihood of more genocide of Bosnian Muslims and graver situation especially with respect to the approaching winter noting that the west wishes to force Muslims to capitulation. "This cannot be materialized unless they exert more pressure and make further threats."

"The enemies are very strong. This is an unequal war in which the Bosnian Muslims follow no political aim. The Bosnian Muslims are fighting for their survival and the question is to live or not to live," the Bosnian ambassador said in conclusion.

Habibi Meets With Hungarian Industry Minister

LD0510130293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Janos Latorcai, the Hungarian minister of industry and trade, today welcomed joint economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran at a meeting with First

Vice President Hasan Habibi, and he asked for expansion of ties. He said: The present state of Hungary's economy has prepared the ground for commercial and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Habibi, referring to the long record of ties between Iran and Hungary, welcomed the expansion of economic cooperation and added: Formation of the joint economic commission is another factor for the expansion of these ties.

Czech Industry Minister, Habibi Discuss Ties

LD0310165993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Vladimir Dlouhy, minister of industry and trade of the Czech Republic, today at a meeting with our country's First Vice President Habibi called for the expansion of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

The Czech minister referred to the importance of the region of Asia and the Islamic Republic of Iran's important role as a bridge linking East and West. He emphasized: The political resolve of the new Czech Republic's government is to expand its cooperation with all Asian countries, notably with Iran.

Our country's first vice president pointed to the two nations' deep and long-standing relations and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Czech Republic, in addition to economic and trade exchanges, can also cooperate in the political and cultural fields.

Romanian Minister on Trade Exchange Figures

LD0910200493 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—The volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Romania stood at dlrs. 255 million in the first eight months of the current year, Romanian Deputy Heavy Industries Minister Constantin Diccu said here today.

Speaking at the Romanian national day ceremony at the 19th Tehran International Trade Fair today he said trade exchanges between the two countries rose from dlrs. 117 million in 1990 to dlrs. 587 million in 1992.

In addition to crude oil Romania is keen on purchase of other goods from Iran, said Diccu, noting that his country is a regular participant at the Tehran International Trade Fair and that Iran ranks fourth among Romania's trade partners. Presently 700 Iranian companies are working in Romania, he added.

Iranian Deputy Heavy Industries Minister for International Affairs Abdul-Rahim Gavahi termed Tehran-Bucharest ties particularly in the political, economic and cultural areas as "excellent".

The ninth joint commission meeting of the two countries which was held in Tehran last year opened a new chapter in relations between the two countries, Gavahi said.

Information Minister Urges Emigres To Return

NC1010083093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Excerpts] On his return from Germany, Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Fallahiyan spoke to our correspondent and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran feels a sense of responsibility for compatriots abroad and does not have any objections to their returning to Iran.

In his interview with our correspondent, Fallahiyan described his talks with high-level German officials as extremely useful and cordial. Regarding the return of Iranians residing abroad, the information minister stated that we will overlook the past of individuals, and we will strive to minimize all official bottlenecks. Those who contact the Iranian representations abroad will be able to avail themselves of all facilities for their repatriation without any problems.

Referring to his meetings with Iranians living in Germany, Fallahiyan stated:

[Begin Fallahiyan recording] Those who are abroad and have problems—of course, in the past few years, many problems have been resolved—I believe it is because there is a psychological atmosphere prevailing there created by the media or some opposition elements, and there are still some who have a feeling of apprehension regarding their return. Therefore, in the course of this trip, I visited places frequented by Iranians, and I mingled openly with them. [passage omitted]

What we are now seeking to do is to eliminate this psychological atmosphere, and for this we do not need too many formalities. Those who have gone abroad and have problems—for example, if they need a passport or visas—this can be easily resolved if they contact our representations. [end recording]

Commenting on the condition of the grouplets and the counterrevolutionary groups outside the country, Fallahiyan said: All terrorist plots and the espionage activities of the grouplets have been neutralized through the selflessness and vigilance of our people; and the security situation is very favorable at present. He added: In the past, our enemies used the grouplets as instruments for exerting pressure and for whipping up a propagandistic atmosphere, and this has become quite irrelevant and fruitless.

The information minister elaborated on repentant members of the grouplets, saying: We will treat them in a manner similar to all other Iranians abroad, and we will overlook their past.

Ground Forces Commander on Combat Readiness

NC1110140393 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Sep 93 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Brigadier General 'Abdollah Najafi, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ground Forces, by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent in Tehran during "Holy Defense Week"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [KEYHAN] What is your assessment of the current status of the Ground Forces?

[Najafi] In general, the trend of the Ground Forces in the various aspects is more toward achieving combat readiness, and fortunately it is marked by growth and progress. We strive to do whatever is linked in some way or the other to combat readiness.

Here it is necessary to mention that the great leader Ayatollah Khamene'i—who is the commander in chief of the armed forces—made some remarks in an interview in Tabriz that indicate his satisfaction with the work and efforts by all the officers, sergeants, employees, soldiers, and all the personnel of the Ground Forces, and we are very glad about it. We are trying to do better carrying out his exhortations and instructions.

[KEYHAN] You are witnessing the various developments that are constantly taking place around our country. How well are our ground prepared to combat the possible difficulties?

[Najafi] At present, we are doing what we need to do, which is to improve our communications system. By doing so at the level of the Ground Forces, we can categorically state that we are informed of the various issues around us as regards what our mission should be, and there is nothing hidden us.

We continue to observe certain events, and it is necessary for us to be able to predict what possible threats may emerge. We have also prepared the necessary plans and are seeking to attain the required readiness. We can confidently state from the military and spiritual point of view as well as with regard to training and equipment that, God willing, we will not have any problems. We are completely prepared to combat all kinds of aggression by the powers of world arrogance or their agents against our Islamic homeland.

Fortunately, our personnel are endowed with faith, moral, training, and all kinds of facilities and equipment, and I personally do not sense any problems.

Bank Governor on Failure To Repay Foreign Debts

LD1010190293 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli said here today that the global economic situation, oil price fluctuations and the refusal by international markets and institutes to provide Iran with credits and long-term capitals were the reasons why the country could not repay its foreign exchange loans in time.

Speaking at a ceremony held on the occasion of the "Banking Day" at the ongoing 19th Tehran International Trade Fair 'Adeli said economic fluctuations caused the parity rate of the U.S. dollar against the German mark to fluctuate by 20 percent, hence, lowering Iran's oil revenues.

"Iran's revenue from each barrel of oil dropped from 21 dollars to 14 dollars, and foreign markets and financial and monetary institutes also refrain from giving credits to Iran," he added.

On the other hand, he said, purchases in cash caused payments in bulk. However, he hoped that this problem would be overcome soon.

Elsewhere he said domestic national products registered a growth of 8.1 percent over the past four years, and noted that some of the regulations had been modified in order to reduce the dependency of the industries on hard currency and turn them to a progressive system generating foreign currency itself.

He said non-oil exports rose from dlrs. 750 million in 1368 (1989-90) to dlrs. 3,100 million in 1371 (1992-93) which was a sign of economic growth.

Says Deposits Tripled

LD1010114793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] Banks are to provide production units with special services that will be financed by fluctuations in the foreign exchanges this year, said Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hosayn 'Adeli, and this will be in addition to regular banking services.

Speaking in ceremonies marking banking day at the permanent site of Tehran's international fair this morning, 'Adeli said: Deposits in banks have increased by about 300 percent from 12 trillion to 34.5 trillion rials [figures as heard] in the past four years.

While public bank deposits have tripled, provisions for industries and production units have nearly quadrupled, he added.

'Adeli said the annual growth of the gross national product has been an average of 8.1 percent since 1368 [beginning March 1989], and that the banking system has played an effective role in this achievement.

The Central Bank governor stressed: In order to have an advanced and an internationally competitive industry, we now need to have an industrial strategy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Views Government Programs

NC0810075493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is visiting Khorasan Province, addressed a session of the Provincial Administrative Council last night. He explained the government's programs and policies in the second Five-Year Development Plan.

He said that expanding railroads, airports, communications routes, and mineral extraction as the major source of foreign exchange were the second plan's main objectives and added: The government has envisaged building 50 dams to harness the country's water resources and making the most use of these programs.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the increasing popular participation in economic affairs and stated: We can give more leeway to the cooperatives and private firms and foster a free economy characterized by appropriate circumstances directed by the government.

He referred to Khorasan Province's importance as a model province, the site of a holy shrine that formed the center of international attention, and said: The government is determined to implement important and basic projects such as the Mashhad-Bafq railroad, boost steel production, develop Tabas' iron ore and coal mines, and thus change the face of the province. This is because holy Mashhad is the pride and honor of the Islamic countries and system.

The president described the rapport and coordination between the people and officials as a great, unique asset and referred to the calm and stability in society as conducive to greater investment in infrastructural construction projects.

Alluding to international political developments and Iran's firm position, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The conditions in Iran are such that it has preserved its categorical and principled stances and is progressing without assistance from others, despite immense hindrances and pressure. So the world is forced to tolerate [tahammol] revolutionary Iran.

Interior Minister Appoints New Governors

LD1010191693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Text] In separate decrees, Interior Minister Besharati appointed governors of Mahallat, Qeshm, and Estahban.

According to an IRNA report, Mohammad Azmureh was appointed governor of Mahallat, Mas'ud Yasa'i was appointed governor of Qeshm, and Gholam Hoseyn Mohheb was appointed governor of Estahban.

Khuzestan Governor General Approved

LD0310175193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Today's meeting of the Cabinet approved that funds earned by the sale of the surplus properties of the headquarters for the reconstruction and renovation of war-stricken regions, be increased from 30 billion to 80 billion rials so that they may be used to assist the return, settlement, and employment of refugees of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war.

At this session, which was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the interior minister proposed and the ministers approved the appointment of Mohammad Hoseyn Moqimi as governor general of Khuzestan Province. The Cabinet thanked Mr. Tabesh, the former governor general of Khuzestan Province, for his services.

Khuzestan Official Installed

LD1210173993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister 'Ali Besharati, who is visiting Khuzestan Province, took part this morning in the meeting of the Administrative Council of Khuzestan Province and introduced Mohammad Hoseyn Moqimi as the new governor general of that province.

According to the Central News Unit, at that meeting, Besharati emphasized the necessity for the development of Khuzestan Province in the cultural, social, and economic fields in the second [five year] plan. He said: At the end of the government's development plans, the situation of the region will change and a very bright horizon awaits Khuzestan Province.

Seminar To View Space Technology, Satellite Use

LD0910155393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1300 GMT 9 Oct 93

[Text] The 14th regional seminar on remote sensing will be held in Tehran from 12-17 October. Experts from 17 countries will take part in the seminar, which will review general issues pertaining to remote sensing and the use of space technology and utilization of satellites.

Mr. Jahedi, head of the Iranian Remote Sensing Center, took part in an interview with reporters before noon today and announced:

The aim of the seminar is the exchange of technical information on space and the expansion of space technology scientifically and practically. He added: Some 80 space and satellite science experts from Iran and other countries will participate in the seminar, and the main topics of discussion concentrate on topics such as agriculture, water and soil, natural disasters, forests, topography, oceanography, land utilization, geology, and environment. Also an expert exhibition on satellite information will be set up during the course of the seminar.

The head of the Iranian Remote Sensing Center said: The center's activities concentrate on passing satellite information to the country's scientific and administrative organizations. He added: As a result of such cooperation, we gather information on agriculture, water and soil, topography, mining, and many other fields in the least possible time and then analyze and pass it to related organizations.

He added: Iran has been recognized as one of the world's five satellite research centers and has been assessed as an appropriate place to set up the Asia-Pacific Space Research and Technology Center.

It is worth mentioning that the office of the president has allocated a budget equivalent to $1.5 million to enhance the center's financial capabilities.

*Electricity, Fuel Subsidies $2.5 Billion Yearly

93LA0237A London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Aug 93 p 4

[Text] Several days ago, Mohsen Yahyavi, chief of the Majles Petroleum Commission, told the newspaper HAMSHAHRI: The Government of Iran pays $2.5 billion per year in subsidies for consumer electricity and fuel. He added: The government has made no decision to raise the price of its oil products before next March. Yahyavi said: Raising the price of fuels is completely logical, but the time and means of making this price increase must be chosen with absolute care.

The chief of the Majles Petroleum Commission Noted: The price of fuel is not going up this year, even though that would solve many of our problems. He continued: Fuel is being distributed practically free.

The Reuter news agency, which published this report citing HAMSHAHRI, adds: The government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani has decided gradually to decrease subsidies on goods, and of course this is creating unhappiness among the people. Increasing the price of fuel is very sensitive, because it affects the costs of shipping, transportation and also that of other goods. Of course, this has not yet happened.

Officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran say: The low cost of gasoline has caused its consumption to quadruple in the last 18 years. Currently the price of 1 liter of regular gasoline is 50 rials, and the price of gasoil is one-fifth the price of gasoline.

*Monthly Index of Wholesale Prices of Goods

93LA0240G Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Sep 93 p 4

[Text] In the month of Tir 1372 [22 June-22 July 1993] the wholesale price index in Iran reached 199.0, and this is an increase of 0.7 percent compared to the previous month. Compared to the same month the previous year this index has increased 25.9 percent.

In the first four months of the current year [21 March-22 July 1993], the average index of wholesale prices in Iran increased 25.7 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

The biggest effect on the increase in the wholesale price index was increased prices for red meat, chicken, barley, imported corn, animal oil, livestock and poultry feed, beverages, raw agricultural goods, grease, construction paint, detergent powder, various types of nylon, synthetic plastics, cardboard cartons and boxes, facial tissue, children's clothing, synthetic fiber thread, iron rods, gas stoves, water heaters, construction machinery, shop and butcher coolers, water coolers, fans, [?kavil], and chillers, household refrigerators and freezers, meat grinders, rice cookers, water meters, light switches and outlets, pickup trucks, various imported spare parts, photographic film, paper and sensitive cards, melamine and plastic containers, pencils and ball-point pens. At the same time the rise of this index was to some extent restrained by the drop in prices for eggs, rice, fruits and vegetables (except apples, vine and bush fruits), sugar, honey, imported lumber, mineral ores, ammonium nitrate, cement, bricks, tiles and ceramics, agricultural machinery and computers.

Main Groups of the Index

Food Items

Price decreases of 29.8 percent for eggs, 1.3 percent for domestic rice, 7 percent for fruits and vegetables (except for the prices of apples, vine and bush fruits, which increased 1.0 percent), 17.4 percent for sugar and 4.3 percent for honey caused the food group price index to decrease 1.0 percent. In this group the price of red meat increased 5.1 percent, chicken 9.5 percent, 52.2 percent for imported barley, imported corn 130.7 percent, animal oils 5.7 percent, and livestock and poultry feed increased 24.0 percent.

The food group price index was 10.9 percent higher than the same month the previous year.

Construction Materials

In the month mentioned the increase in the metal construction materials group price index increased 0.8 percent, and the drop in the nonmetal construction materials group price index was 2.6 percent, creating a small decrease of 0.1 percent in the construction materials group.

The price index for the construction materials group was 45.1 percent higher than the same period the previous year.

Source: Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran

*Work on Khomeyni Airport Watch Tower Finished

93LA0240M Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Sep 93 p 3

[Text] The public relations office of the National Iranian Airline Organization announced: The task of building the concrete frame of the observation tower at Emam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) Airport with a height of 57 meters, which began on 23 Mordad [14 August] using advanced procedures with slip molds, was completed Saturday on the occasion of the joyous birth anniversary of the noble prophet (peace be upon him).

This public relations office said that the speed of construction of this frame, in view of the amount of work it took, was unprecedented.

*Fiberglass Floating Dock Launched in Oman Sea

93LA0239N Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Sep 93 p 15

[Text] Zahedan. The construction of the first 60-foot fiberglass fishing floating dock was completed in the Kenark Shipbuilding Company in Chabahar.

This vessel, which is 18 meters long and has 270 horsepower and 110 tons of open space storage, is a fully equipped fishing system and has a daily capacity of 40 tons of fish from the waters of the Oman Sea.

The building of this vessel is unprecedented in this region and cost 23 million rials [Rls].

This vessel will soon be launched into the waters of the Oman Sea.

The general manager of the Kenark Shipbuilding Company, during the visit of the governor-general of Sistan and Baluchestan to the first floating dock built by this company, said: The above-mentioned company started its operations with a capital investment of Rls1.4 billion in 1369 [21 Mar 1990-20 Mar 1991], and so far has spent Rls540 million on building the facilities and manufacturing fishing vessels.

In conclusion, he added: The Kenark Shipbuilding Company, which comes under the Heavy Industries of Sistan and Baluchestan, is capable of producing 25 60-foot fiberglass floating docks for fishing annually.